

For more information, see page 7



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THURSDAY, MAY 1ST, 2014

In Business Update

PAGES 22-23



Van About Town

See Pages 24-26

£1.1m LOTTERY WIN IN DINAS !

'We won't believe it until the money's in the bank!'

FIFTY members of Dinas Powys Bowling Club are celebrating a Lottery win of £1,124,000 – but say they won't believe their good fortune until the money is safely in the bank.

It means each person in the syndicate will get £22,480. Many of the people in the syndicate are in their seventies and eighties.

One of the organisers Colin Burgess (78) told

by **TIM CHAPMAN**

The GEM he checked off the numbers on Saturday night, and then started phoning people to pass on the good news.

"It is not a life-changing sum, but it might help people to be a bit more comfortable."

"We've been taking part in the Lottery since day one. In the earlier days we got five numbers once and won about £1,000."

Apart from that

£1,000, most of the rare wins were for small sums, although the syndicate did have a win of £202 recently.

"Our nickname was 'The Lottery Losers'. Our idea was that any winnings would go into paying for an evening meal, but we were always having to put money in ourselves to make up the sum."

"Now we're going to have to change our name!"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Learning about capital city's history!



ABOVE: Class 7W at Barry Comprehensive were among a party of pupils who recently visited Cardiff Castle. (SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 7)

THIEVES TARGET CRICKET CLUB

A local cricket club has been left frustrated by the theft of valuable equipment, just as the new season is getting under way.

Items worth more than £1,000 were taken from Barry Athletic Cricket Club, which is situated off Paget Road on the Island.

Club member Mark Rees said: "We have reported the theft to the police."

"The equipment belongs to one of our members and was in a groundsman's shed, which was broken into. A number of members do a little bit to help out at the ground."

"We think the theft took place

overnight on Sunday, April 27. Police 'scenes of crime' were at the club on Monday."

Among the items stolen were a Stihl HS85 hedge cutter, a Mountfield hp184 lawnmower, and an Efcio 141sp chainsaw. Similar items were also stolen from the tennis section.

Anyone who has any information concerning this theft is asked to contact Barry Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 quoting reference: 1400145495. Mark Rees can be contacted on 01446 701936 or 07570 135 831 or Barry Police Station.

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Schoolboy's view on Darren Farm

IWOULD like to make my views known concerning the possibility of up to 390 houses being built on the site of Darren Farm.

I have lived in Cowbridge nearly all my life; it is, in my opinion, the nicest place on earth and I would not want to live anywhere else.

I certainly do not want to see more and more cars coming into the town. There are not enough parking spaces for the existing cars – we have too many already.

If, in time, this development goes ahead, I feel that it will be the death of Cowbridge. It will do nothing to preserve or improve the

town. At present, I am in year-7 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School and experience the numbers of school buses going to and from the school each day.

The traffic congestion that they contribute to would get worse.

Cowbridge town was built in the age of the horse and cart, and was never designed to take an ever-increasing number of cars and other vehicles.

If there is a proven demand for additional houses, they must be built on another site and the fields on the approaches to Cowbridge must be preserved for present and future generations to enjoy.

Owen Edwards
(aged 12 years).

Open or closed?



I HAVE just spotted this sign (above) near the road works behind the Town Hall, Cowbridge. Presumably, you have to agree to the closure before gaining access!
Jeremy Atkinson, Cowbridge.

'Authorities have a long way to go on animal welfare'

IWAS interested to see an article written by Coun Neil Moore in The GEM regarding an Animal Welfare Charter, and how the Vale Council is keen to comply with the welfare standards.

I certainly hope this will progress. The fly-grazing of horses in the Vale, and the lack of equine passports, and also puppy farming, is horrific.

In my view, puppy farming should be totally banned. The Welsh Government has

certainly not fully addressed the situation regarding horses, and there is still a lot of suffering.

There are two other areas of concern, I would like to mention: Using animals in circuses is out of date and should not be allowed any more. I also believe that pet shops get licences far too easily.

I think the Welsh Government and councils have a long way to go until they are seriously tackling the issue of animal welfare.

Sue Thomas, Penarth

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

PLANNERS PIGGY IN THE MIDDLE...

IAM one of many Vale citizens who have chosen to live in a rural community which is currently threatened by the biggest change in its history.

This threat has evolved because the Vale Council needs to comply with planning policy Wales' target for building new homes.

Vale planners are caught between the confrontation and confusion created by our elected representatives at every level.

I do not envy planners their task, especially when budgets are being tightened reducing, even undermining, their ability and willingness to defend appeals.

But they have a legal obligation to do so, especially when there are robust reasons for recommending that an application be rejected – as is the case in Colwinston, with the Redrow Homes Ltd application to build 62 new houses.

In 1988, council planners rejected development on this site, because access is next to the school entrance/exit, it extended the village boundary beyond reasonable limits, and it is useable farmland.

In 2014, the same points apply – plus the

How to make affordable houses unaffordable

Paul Simpson was quite right (GEM letters, April 17) when he highlights the strange policy of the Vale planners to penalise the building of new houses in the western Vale with a 35 per cent 'tax'.

In recent years when money has been tight, many people have successfully built their own houses.

This is because when you build your own house (and banks are often very helpful by providing staged building loans), it is

possible to save about 25 per cent of the price charged by builders. This makes it very attractive to build your own.

In the Vale of Glamorgan, our planning regulations contained in the Local Development Plan Policy MG4 (Affordable Housing), effectively means that affordable housing becomes once again unaffordable.

The planners are effectively penalising anyone who wants to build their own home themselves.

An own goal by the planners, I think!
Ed Lewis, Colwinston.

Music in ideal rural setting

WHAT a pleasure to read your review of the latest Coed Hills concert at St Hilary.

In Cowbridge, we have been fortunate to have so many good choirs and when the Cowbridge Music Festival was launched, we were also able to listen to professional musical concerts.

Now we have the Coed Hill concerts;

professional small groups of musicians playing their choice of music in the excellent acoustic setting of Coed Hills.

It felt such a privilege to hear such quality in a setting for which the music was probably originally composed, i.e. intimate and relaxed.

And how good to see so many young people in the appreciative audience.

Stuart Hodson, Llanblethian.

sewerage system for existing homes overflows discharge to the public road – a fact acknowledged by Welsh Water.

If approved, it could pave the way for the six other proposed alternative residential site developments in Colwinston that would triple the size of the village to potentially 450 homes.

It is our councillors, our AMs, MPs and the like who will be ultimately accountable for not taking adequate care and consideration of their citizens' democratic rights, whatever their political persuasion.

Eventually, a planning crimes tribunal may form part of an election manifesto – if only to appease the enraged electorate's feelings of being trampled underfoot by planning bureaucracy.

Paul H Simpson, Colwinston.

LDP – Why not Llandow Newydd?

FROM reading recent letters in The GEM, and talking to local residents, there appears to be a great deal of support for the Llandow Newydd development put forward as an alternative site in the LDP.

Given that the LDP is increasing the number of houses in the Vale by 25 per cent, a new development would seem like a logical choice.

So why is it that it has no support with the planners or the council?

As far as I understand, the fact that it was ruled against in a judicial review some years ago, does not stop it from being

incorporated in the LDP and so far I have not heard of any technical reason why it can't be considered.

I would ask councillors to canvass the opinions of their electorate, to see if there is indeed a lot of support for this development and maybe they should, therefore, support it.

I was very impressed recently with the openness of so many councillors who went so quickly into print in The GEM to inform us why joining Cardiff Council would be a bad idea.

I would be grateful if these same councillors, or even the head of planning, went into print in the same way to explain to their voters – why not Llandow Newydd?

Mike Carney, Cowbridge.

Llandow new town needed

THE Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth were pleased to see so many people throughout the Vale, from Cowbridge to Dinas Powys, objecting to the addition, green field developments suggested in the Local Development Plan.

Agreement on a planned, sustainable new town at Llandow is evident and should be agreed by all parties, not just the architects and builders – but the Welsh Government, local council communities and, most importantly, environmental advisors,

to ensure the least damage to the environment of the Vale.

Bus and train services would have to be improved, with subsidies for public transport increased, not cut back.

Train stations at St Athan and Llandow are long overdue, along with the Llyswoyney by-pass.

We all live in congested traffic zones and have no wish to see further congestion in the Vale.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on May 6 in the Castle Hotel, Barry.

Keith Stockdale (Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth Co-ordinator)

Why the rise in Foodbanks?

LAST week's excellent article on foodbanks in The GEM by Caroline Sarll was a real eye opener on what life is for many people under this Tory-led Government.

It does not accept any blame for the increase in foodbank use and says there is no link between welfare reform or any Government policy and the increase in people needing help.

Could someone explain why in the last

year of the Labour Government only 41,000 people used foodbanks, but now four years after Mr Cameron limped into Downing Street, propped up by the Lib Dems, their use has risen to 913,138 in the year 2013 – 2014?

This is a Government that ignores the disabled, the poor, and the most vulnerable in society, but protects and helps the rich.

We need a Government that stands up for everyone, not just the privileged few.

G Smith, Llantwit Major.

'Cash not reward for job well done'

IN recent media comments, the Vale Council's cabinet member for transportation implied that additional Welsh Government funding of £100,000 for buses was recognition for the Vale's "already innovative approach to community and rural transport".

On the contrary, this money is being made available to two Welsh councils who have suffered most as a result of the Labour cuts of over £24 million to bus subsidies.

This money is not a reward for a job well

done – it's a thinly veiled apology from the Welsh Labour Government for devastating bus services in the Vale. After pressure from Vale residents and local Conservatives, we are finally seeing steps being taken to improve the situation.

Unfortunately, it is asking a lot of the Vale Council to turn bus services around with this sum – akin to sending a firefighter into a forest fire armed only with a damp flannel.

I wish the cabinet member good luck. Many Vale residents rely on a reliable and comprehensive public transport network. **Andrew RT Davies AM (Welsh Conservative leader).**

'Give Valerie big Welsh welcome!'

VALERIE Carter, an ex-pat, would be pleased to see as many as possible of her friends and school friends at The Cherry Orchard, Barry Road, Barry, on May 9 at 7.30pm.

Valerie emigrated to Canada when she was 14 years old, she went to Holton Road School and

lived in George Street Barry.

She was home last year and much to her disappointment did not meet up with anyone, so let's give her a big Welsh welcome!

For any questions or details please contact **Morgan.Tyler@btinternet.com** or **ashie1@ntlworld.com**.
Vera Tyler, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MAY 8)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
01 Thur	08.34	9.7	20.49	9.7
02 Fri	09.12	9.6	21.24	9.4
03 Sat	09.49	9.2	21.59	9.1
04 Sun	10.22	8.8	22.37	8.7
05 Mon	10.59	8.3	23.16	8.2
06 Tues	11.43	7.8		
07 Wed	00.05	7.6	12.44	7.4
08 Thur	01.11	7.4	13.57	7.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Old Post Office celebrates its second birthday as a hub of the community

RIGHT: Lisa receives a community award from Dave Edwards.

THE Old Post Office in Holton Road, Barry, will celebrate its second birthday on May 9 – and in two short years it has become an indispensable part of the local community.

The Old Post Office started off as a coffee shop and cafe, but the owner Lisa Eveleigh always wanted it to do more and be of service to local people.

Lisa told The GEM: "There are lots of exciting things going on at the shop."

"The cafe is now a hub in the local community."

"I have 11 local groups now running and am hoping to continually increase this."

"We have even had a meeting recently with the aim of putting on a play at nearby Bassett Park."



Lisa and the staff are inviting people to two 'open days' shortly.

"We are having open days on Friday and Saturday, May 9 and May 10, and will be launching a charity 'Carriad ar Waith' which means 'love in action'."

"It is very much for people in the community."

Lisa's work in the Bassett area was recognised when she won a hamper of play supplies for local children's groups at the recent 'Play Aloud' awards.

The open days run from 10am to 3pm. The Old Post Office Coffee Shop is at the top end of Holton Road at number 239.

WALK FOR LIFE IN BARRY



LOCAL residents turned out on Sunday (April 27) for the Barry Walk for Life, supporting families across Wales affected by kidney disease and renal failure.

The Mayor of Barry Town, Coun

Claire Curtis, took part with Jane Hutt AM and a dedicated team of walkers, including families affected by kidney disease.

"The Walk for Life is Kidney Wales Foundation's most important

fundraising event of the year and I congratulate the committed volunteers who always make the Barry Walk such a success," Ms Hutt commented.

Elderly man is impaled on spike

AN elderly man in Barry was taken to the University Hospital of Wales on Friday (April 25), after he fell from a tree and was impaled on scaffolding.

A Fire Service spokesman said: "We got a call at 11.33am and a crew from Barry released an elderly male casualty from a metal spike using hydraulic equipment and other equipment after he fell from a tree."

The man, who is believed to be in his 70s, was taken to hospital by ambulance, where he is said to be recovering well.

Volunteers needed at 'Senior Health Shop'

I AM a volunteer at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry. Put simply, this is a One Stop Shop/Cafe, that gives advice, information and support for senior citizens, their carers, friends and family, in the Vale.

The Project is co-ordinated by Nona Hextor, The Ageing Well Project, part of Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale (the operating title of AGE CONCERN Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan).

The Senior Health Shop does not only act as a Meeting Place for senior citizens, there is direct access to various advice clinics i.e. tax and benefits. Numerous organisations use the venue as an access and information point i.e. SSAFA, Good Neighbours.

The project is mainly run by volunteers, many of whom are senior

citizens themselves.

During the time I have been a volunteer, I have witnessed many incidents, where people coming in of their own accord, or, having been referred by other organisations, have had minor or more complex issues, calmly and efficiently resolved.

Like all charitable projects, funding is an ongoing issue. I would urge anyone who lives in the Vale to come and see what this project does for the local community.

Please come and support this locally-based project in any way you can. Why not pop in for some refreshments whilst out shopping, consider becoming a volunteer or make a donation. We would love to see you.

You never know, you might make some new friends, join in classes, or find out some useful information!

CLIVE POOLE

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RICHENDA'S CARING WORK WINS AWARD



President Audrey presents the Cup to Richenda, along with a cheque for £50.

SINCE 1996, Soroptimist International's Barry and District has presented an annual award for community service to a student in Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School.

This year's worthy recipient is Richenda Tomelda, who is studying health and social studies, science

and ethics. Her wish is to become a nurse and her caring nature is evident in her involvement in the community.

Richenda is part of the Sixth Form leadership team and has the role of year-12 prefect. As a prefect, she undertakes roles within the school community and is a member of the duty team, supervising lunchtime activities in the main hall.

According to her head of year: "She is a good role model for the younger pupils as she conducts herself in a mature manner. She has always been a model pupil, willing to participate in all aspects of school life".

Richenda decided to offer help to the local

foodbank as part of her 30 hours voluntary work for Welsh Baccalaureate.

However, she enjoyed what she was doing and has continued with this on a regular basis ever since. Richenda goes to the Food Bank every Thursday after school.

Her duties include ensuring the correct products are placed in boxes and bags to give to those who visit the food bank. She also helps deliver the items within the community.

Richenda balances her voluntary work with her Sixth Form studies. She is well-mannered and one who always has a smile on her face – a lovely, mature pupil. CDS

HOSE IT DOWN! Rainbows learn about life as a firefighter



The Rainbows get to grips with the fire hose!

RECENTLY, the 1st Barry Rainbows visited the local fire station where they learned about fire safety and emergency services.

The girls all enjoyed a talk and seeing the fire engine, but the best part was trying out the fire hose! (See above).

Sarah Thomas, the unit leader, organised the visit for Kara, Isobel, Sofia, Meghan, Ruby, Sophia, Beth, Beatrice, Aimee, Mika and

Kayleigh as part of the programme of activities for Rainbows.

Anyone interested in joining, as a girl or adult volunteer, should contact Jayne Newcombe on 01446 409282 or www.girlguiding.co.uk.

Airport enthusiast puts case for Rhoose

JOHN Dell'Armi will be speaking about Cardiff Airport and its prospects for the future at the next meeting of Penarth Aviation Society on Friday, May 2.

Last month – on April 5, the first Lufthansa flight left Rhoose for Dusseldorf, gateway to the Rhine in Germany, marking the start of a regular weekly service.

It is not merely a scheduled flight for taking holiday-makers from Wales to Germany, but it is also expected to stimulate interest in Wales as a holiday destination for German tourists.

It is just one of many regular services to be covered by airlines including CityJet, Germanwings and charters. They are providing regular flights to Malaga, Alicante and Barcelona in Spain, short-haul flights to Dublin where passengers can clear

customs for the US and fly on to America; and chartered flights to meet cruise ships at destinations like Barbados.

This should be the start of the resurgence of Cardiff Airport for which Mr Dell'Armi, and two other campaigners of the 'Fly Cardiff' group can claim some credit.

With the withdrawal of budget airlines and strong competition from Bristol airport, flights from Cardiff had dropped last year to below one million.

Mr Dell'Armi will describe why, since the Welsh Government was persuaded to buy the airport for £52million, the future now looks fair for Rhoose as a link airport with Europe and America.

PAS meets at the Penarth Conservative Club on the first Friday of each month. Visitors are welcome. Further information from David Ephraim on 01446 721321.

Lifeboat crew helps police search for man

THE volunteer crew of Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat were called out at 9pm on Tuesday night, April 22 to assist a police search for a vulnerable man.

They searched along the shore from the Knap to Whitmore Bay, but were stood down, leaving the police to continue searching inland.

Barry Coastguards were also on hand to search the shore from land.

The 'shout' followed a quiet Bank Holiday weekend with no emergency call outs for the volunteer lifesavers.

Training activities took place as usual as part of the Competence Based Training programme designed to prepare crew for all the situations they could find themselves in at sea.

The lifeboat fundraising branch and the education and visits team are looking for volunteers.

If you would like to find out more about either of these opportunities, please call chair of the fundraising branch, Chris Tutton, on 01446 732195; or the education and visits officer, Liz Matthews, on 01446 738923.

Barry Mayor's coffee morning

THE Mayor of 12pm in aid of the Barry, Coun Claire charities the Mayor Curtis, will be has chosen to hosting a coffee support during her morning on term of office, Tŷ Saturday, May 10 in Hapus and The the Mayor's JAM Fund. Parlour, Barry Entry fee will be Town Council, 7, £3. Enjoy some tea, Gladstone Road, coffee, cake and Barry, at 10.30am to biscuits.

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Man who survived coma praises work of Mind in the Vale charity



Nathan makes regular visits to Mind in the Vale based in Llantwit Major.

'It was fifty-fifty as to whether I would survive'

TEN years ago, Nathan Hughes from Llantwit Major, was the victim of an assault that ended with him in a coma and fighting for his life.

Nathan (42) who is still recovering, wants to thank a local organisation for its invaluable support over the years.

Mind in the Vale has centres in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major.

Its executive manager Caroline Chapman, who is based at the Barry centre in Tynewydd Road, explained: "We strongly believe that if people are encouraged and supported, they can achieve their goals, regardless of mental health issues."

Nathan said: "Mind in the Western Vale have been an absolutely fantastic support to me."

A decade ago, he was an aspiring artist with plans for a new book, but that dream came to a shuddering halt one night.

"I'd been to a pub in town and decided to have some chips on the way home.

"While I was at the chip shop, I was attacked. The assailant banged my head on the counter. The attack continued outside and I hit my head on the concrete as I fell down, which did most of the damage.

"The ambulances were busy and I had to be taken to hospital in the back of the police car – the police were really good.

"I was in the Princess of Wales Hospital for two months – much of the time in an induced coma.

"It was fifty-fifty as to whether I would survive."

by TIM CHAPMAN

For Nathan's parents, Susan and Edward, it was a dreadful time.

"My parents were a fantastic support. I couldn't wish for better."

When he came out of the coma, Nathan embarked on a bizarre psychological and physical journey.

"When I was brought round, I was like a little child. All of my senses and perceptions had changed.

"Everything was completely new. I had to learn to walk again, and grow-up again.

"I'm not sure that they knew what to do with me. I went to Neath Hospital for specialist care.

"At times, I was like a toddler with a short attention span. It was like seeing the world in a new way.

"It was an incredibly stressful time. Neither the doctors nor my parents knew what kind of recovery I would make."

The Headway Charity in Cardiff, which helps people recovering from brain injuries, proved an invaluable support.

"They helped me to get out and meet other people who had similar experiences to mine.

"Some had been in vehicle collisions, others had suffered strokes or falls, and at least three were the victims of assaults.

"In Rookwood Hospital, Headway was more or less open every day of the week.

"There was a recreation hall where people could get involved in activities and listen to talks. We went to Cornwall for a week.

"It all helped in building back my confidence."

Nathan even displayed his art work in a 'picture space' at Headway.

In recent years, Mind in the Western Vale at Crawshay Drive in Llantwit Major has become the mainstay of his on-going recovery.

"The centre is only a two-minute walk from my home. All my friends at Mind live locally. It is an invaluable community centre.

"It is open three days a week and the staff and volunteers will help with any problems you may have."

Nathan has now finished his book.

"I have recovered enough to work again and to catch-up and finish my manuscript. It is on Amazon as an e-book.

"It is called 'Parallels' and contains paintings, poetry, photographs and a few short stories."

Nathan is a quietly-spoken, gentle person, who now exudes a calm confidence despite his lost decade.

"I am optimistic about the future, although I'll never fully recover.

"I am a totally different person now, but I am doing pretty well considering."

Nathan's book can be found on Amazon by putting a search in for 'Amazon, Nathan Hughes and Parallels'.

• Mind in the Vale's Barry centre is now open on Sundays from 10am to 2pm.

Caroline said: "It means there is support if people need it over the weekend. For some people, help may be needed urgently and Monday is too long to wait. In those circumstances, they can call 01446 746191."

Pupils in the music mix...

RECENTLY, pupils from Bryn Hafren School, Barry, performed with three other schools from Cardiff and the Vale.

They composed their own pieces inspired by Brahms' 'Violin Concerto'. Their music was then combined with the work created from pupils in Bishop of Llandaff High School, Glyn Derw High School and St Teilo's Church in Wales School.

They performed together for the first time on Friday, March 21 to create an electric youth orchestra.

This project helped the pupils working in groups to create their own small compositions for a variety of instruments.

Some pupils also had the opportunity to play an instrument that they had never played before.

Mr Green, the music teacher organising the trip, said: "It was a great experience for all the pupils involved and they were so lucky to be taking part because they don't get many chances to perform a piece they created themselves." **Kate Roberts**

DINAS POWYS LOTTERY WIN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Colin checked off the Lottery numbers during the Saturday evening show and could hardly believe their six numbers had come up. He and his wife Betty then watched the confirmation of the numbers later in the evening after the news.

"Once I'd confirmed the numbers were right, I began phoning around. I also phoned Camelot and they said the numbers were correct. I gave them the number on our ticket and they confirmed it on their system."

This week, a representative from Camelot was due to meet Colin to validate the ticket so the winnings can be paid out.

Colin said: "I've heard some people have already been along to the travel agents," and then he joked, "As long as the money doesn't end up in an account in the Cayman Islands!"

Colin added: "Some people say they won't believe they've won the money until it is in the bank."

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Cowbridge man killed in Afghanistan helicopter crash was a 'rising star'

A COWBRIDGE man was among five who died in southern Afghanistan when their helicopter crashed at the weekend.

Captain Thomas Clarke, 30, a former Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupil, was also a member of the local ATC from the age of 13 to 15.

Another man who died, Lance Cpl Oliver Thomas from Brecon, also had strong connections to the Vale, particularly in the farming community.

The crash took place on April 26, and the MoD confirmed the names of those who lost their lives as: Captain Thomas Clarke, Army Air Corps; Flight Lieutenant Rakesh Chauhan, Royal Air Force; Warrant Officer Class 2 Spencer Faulkner, Army Air Corps; Corporal James Walters, Army Air Corps and Lance Corporal Oliver Thomas, Intelligence Corps.

Group Captain Richard Maddison, Station Commander RAF Odiham said: "I am extremely saddened to hear of the loss of Captain Thomas Clarke, Flight Lieutenant Rakesh

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Chauhan, Warrant Officer Spencer Faulkner and Corporal James Walters, all who served at Royal Air Force Odiham.

"My deepest sympathies are with their families and friends at this most difficult time, and also with the family of Lance Corporal Oliver Thomas, who was not from Royal Air Force Odiham but who was also on the Lynx aircraft.

"It was only a week before the accident that I visited their unit in Afghanistan, and flew in a Lynx with Captain Clarke, Warrant Officer

Faulkner and Corporal Walters. It was an absolute pleasure to fly with them and to discuss their work; it was also incredibly reassuring to meet such professional and enthusiastic members of their Unit".

The MoD statement said: "Captain Tom Clarke was born in Cardiff. After studying for his A-Levels, he gained a degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Birmingham in 2006. He enlisted as an Army Officer in May 2007, undertaking Officer Training at the Royal Military Academy

Sandhurst. He graduated in April 2008, commissioning into the Army Air Corps as a Pilot.

"He completed a short tour of Afghanistan prior to commencing flying training in July 2008. He completed his helicopter pilot training in May 2010 and was posted to 661 Squadron and subsequently 652 Squadron to fly the Lynx.

"Captain Clarke was posted to RAF Odiham in October 2013 and has deployed on numerous occasions in support of training exercises.

"An ambitious and competent young officer, he had a very bright and promising future in the Army".

His Commanding Officer said of him: "Captain Thomas Clarke was a fantastic young officer, full of life and immensely committed to his soldiers and friends.

"In the short time he had served in the unit, he had proven to be an exceptional aviator and forthright leader who always placed himself at the centre of squadron life. His loss will be keenly felt both at RAF Odiham and within the wider Army Air Corps. "He will be deeply missed by the Air



Cpl Oliver Thomas

sympathy are with his wife, family and friends at this most difficult of times".

The Commander for the deployed Lynx Detachment said:

"Captain Tom Clarke was a hard working, loyal and gifted aviator who was a privilege to command.

His brightness, character, humility and charm will be remembered by all.

"He brought a smile to people's faces and I was fortunate enough to have worked with him at RAF Odiham as well as in Afghanistan. A rising star of the Army Air Corps, his loss will be deeply felt and I feel honoured and privileged to have called him a friend.

"He will be deeply missed by the Air



ABOVE: Capt Tom Clarke.

Detachment and by his wife, family and friends at this most difficult of times".

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"He will be deeply missed by the Air

and saddened to learn of the death of Tom Clarke on active service in Afghanistan.

"Tom played for the minis, juniors and also Cowbridge first team. He was a tough, uncompromising player on the pitch but a perfect gentleman off it.

"He will leave a huge hole in the lives of his wife, Angie, parents Bruce and Denise, brother and sister in law, Simon and Sally and all of his many friends.

"As the best of the best, Tom, we salute you".

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "My deepest sympathies are with the family and friends of Capt Thomas Clarke for the loss of this courageous and outstanding man who served his country so bravely."

Lance Corporal Oliver Thomas (26) was born in Brecon, Powys. He joined the Army Reserve in June 2011, and after moving to London he joined 3 Military Intelligence Battalion in July 2012.

He volunteered to be mobilised from the Army Reserves for deployment to Afghanistan and arrived on December 11, 2013 to be part of the United Kingdom's contribution to the

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

His Commanding Officer said: "Lance Corporal Oli Thomas was the embodiment of his generation: bright, gifted with an enquiring mind and laser focussed on the task in-hand.

"The bonus for us was that he was also blessed with a natural flair and the happy knack of always being able to raise a smile with his keen sense of wit. The future and uncertainty did not disturb him. He only saw opportunity ahead and, ultimately, it was his irresistible addiction to the life-force that took him away.

"It is with regret and to my loss that I did not know Oli for longer – but in only a short time he made an immediate and lasting impression. His absence has left an enormous gap in a close-knit team. We will remember him".

His family paid the following tribute: "Oliver was a truly amazing person, living his life to the full, while fulfilling some of his many dreams and adventures.

"He was very much loved and will be greatly missed by his grieving family and friends".

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BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL NEWS

C'mon Cymraeg week inspires...



Replicas of the walls of Cardiff Castle.



Students working together as a team.

WYTHNOS C'mon Cymraeg Week was very busy for the students at Barry Comprehensive School this year.

Year-7 went on a visit to the 'Story of Cardiff Museum', where they got to learn about the history of Cardiff and the people living there.

Sam Owen of 7ANB said: "I liked the interactive games; I also liked the Smelly Cardiff section – as I learnt what Cardiff Bay used to smell like."

The boys were very well behaved and it was a pleasure to take them to Cardiff.

Many boys took pride in singing

Welsh songs in their lessons and enjoyed learning new facts about Wales.

Many worked really hard to get their 'Cerdyn Clod' (praise cards) signed in lessons and during lunchtime.

The students also wore 'Red for Wales' and raised a fantastic £130 for the British Heart Foundation.

The Welsh room was a hive of activity as the boys queued up to taste some traditional Welsh food. The cawl was a hit, however liver bread wasn't as popular! I'm sure cawl sales will go through the roof as it was a very popular new taste.

We all look forward to an exciting Eisteddfod in July.



Evacuees Danny and Lewis dressed up and ready to escape to the country.

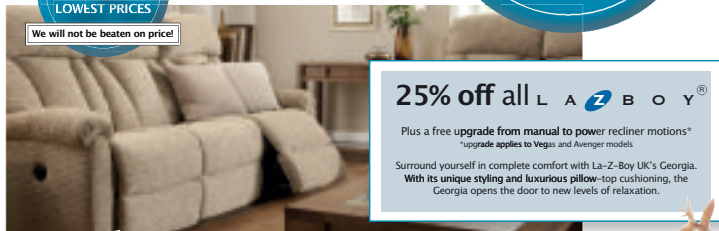
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Penarth Computer Club: Smartphones

YOU'VE seen pictures of early mobile phones; you know, the ones the size and weight of a house-brick and only available for VIPs.

How times have changed since the 1990s. In 2002, club members were first to handle a mobile phone that included a digital camera – a device not then on sale in the UK – and we have kept our eye on developments.

Mike F continued the process by reviewing the progress made since then.

The size reduced to the point where smaller was a matter of pride. These tiny phones could contain a camera, GPS and texting facilities and were the cat's whiskers at the time.

Things do not stand still in computing and communications and convergence ensured more facilities were grafted onto the device.

These were all called 'mobiles' until the ante was raised by adding Wi-Fi, touch-screens, Web browsing, emailing and computing capacity. Screens needed to get bigger again.

The simpler ones were named 'feature phones' to distinguish them from the really smart ones. The distinction was flexible.

More capabilities were added, such as finger-swiping and better cameras for more sophisticated use.

Some earlier ones started 'smart' and priced accordingly, but didn't sell and had to be re-priced downwards to become regarded as feature phones.

Some are getting so smart that the others have been christened 'dumbphones'.

The 'shake-out' caused by keen competition also applied to the software operating systems; some sinking without trace.

The most widespread currently is Android (over 80 per cent) used

by Google and Samsung among others; followed by iOS (around 12 per cent) used by Apple. Several devices share the remainder.

Even for them, it can be big business as over one billion smartphones were distributed in 2012, outselling feature phones.

The phone devices themselves are split between Samsung (31 per cent), Apple (30 per cent) and 39 per cent divided among the rest of the market.

That's at the moment, of course. A 'killer' app or improvement could change all that quite quickly.

Members were surprised to learn that by 2011, 27 per cent of all photographs were taken by mobile phones (1.73pm for 8pm. Looking at Skype (free worldwide phone calls), visitors always welcome - penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

He warned that one in three robberies now

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Council responds to AM's education budget concerns

FOLLOWING a Freedom of Information request, regional Tory AM Andrew RT Davies says that the fall in school funding across the Vale is bigger than previously thought.

He said that the formula allocations for secondary schools are down by more than £1.2 million this year.

Mr Davies said that the figures were "concerning" and that he was worried schools could be forced to take measures to balance their budgets that could undermine pupil

education.

He argued: "When inflation is taken into account, schools actually face a real terms cut of well over £1 million this year".

He claimed that the cuts were as follows:

- Barry Comprehensive: £383,838.

- Bryn Hafren Comprehensive: £298,493.

- Llantwit Major Comprehensive: £272,301.

- St Cyres School: £228,353.

- Cowbridge Comprehensive: £145,998.

- Ysgol Bro Morgannwg: £53,419.

Only St Richard

by PHILIP IRWIN

Gwyn (£153,381) and Stanwell (£5,704) saw their budgets increase for the year.

Mr Davies said: "Despite claims to the contrary, real terms spending on Vale schools is down by well over a million pounds."

"The Labour-Llantwit coalition is slashing school funding and any attempts to claim otherwise are deliberately misleading."

"The cabinet has pointed to school numbers as an excuse for fluctuating figures but when my office spoke to Cowbridge Comprehensive, for example, we were told that school numbers this year were up – and yet they have faced a cut of almost £150,000."

"I do understand that demographic changes prevent funding from remaining static, but Vale residents will be rightly furious that the council has chosen to cut school funding just weeks after hiking their council tax by 4.5 per cent."

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for

children services said in response: "I am saddened that Mr Davies continues to play his petty political games with education in the Vale."

"The Labour-Llantwit First run Vale Council has funded schools in the Vale above the IBA (recommended funding level set by Welsh Government) for the second year running and has met the ambitious funding commitment for schools which is set by the Welsh Labour Government."

"This is in stark contrast with the policy of Mr Davies' party, which has committed to a funding cut for education of 12 per cent if elected to run the Welsh Government, a proposal that Mr Davies is on record as supporting."

"The previous Conservative administration which ran the council never met the recommended funding levels for Vale schools – let alone exceeded them. If he does have concerns about education funding in the Vale, then it is a shame Mr Davies didn't raise these while his party colleagues were in

control of the council and the funding level was never met."

"Specifically relating to Mr Davies' comments regarding Cowbridge Comprehensive, again Mr Davies continues to mislead residents; numbers are slightly down in Cowbridge in both the under-16 age range and in post-16, but another issue is that the school overestimated its numbers, all of which has an impact on funding."

'PLAYING POLITICS'

"So again these are more facts Mr Davies has chosen to ignore. It is incredibly disappointing that he has chosen to only relay part of the facts, but as I have said previously, Mr Davies never lets the facts get in the way of playing politics with education."

"I would appeal to Mr Davies to stop playing with statistics and start apologising to the people of the Vale for his support of his Conservative colleagues' record-breaking cuts in funding to Wales, which are having a real impact on front line services, including education."

MAN (30) IS JAILED FOR 'GROOMING' 15-YEAR-OLDS

A PAEDOPHILE who had repeatedly breached a court order banning him from having contact with children under 16 has been jailed for 20 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Christopher Davies, 30, was said to have taken a boy and a girl, both aged 15, to his home in Lake View Close, Porthcawl, where he "groomed them".

Judge Huw Davies QC said: "A man of 30 does not strike up friendships with 15-year-olds and invite them to his flat for an innocent reason. He was grooming them."

Davies pleaded guilty to two charges of breaching a sexual offences prevention order.

It was made in January 2011 when he was sentenced to three years and four months for 17 offences including rape, committing a serious sexual offence, indecent assault and committing acts of gross indecency involving boys and girls.

FREE PLANTS FAIR

ON Sunday, May 11, an unusual plants fair will be hosted by Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, Penarth, CF64 5UY; free entry, free parking.

For further information, contact 01446 774036.

Report by AJ SICLUNA

Prosecutor David Pinnell said the order banned him from having custody, care or contact with any child under 16 unless supervised by social services.

In the current case, said Mr Pinnell, the boy's mother was told he had met a "new friend" in Porthcawl public library.

She was unaware of Davies' background.

Sometime after, continued Mr Pinnell, the boy ran away from home.

The police made enquiries and interviewed the boy who confirmed that he had been to Davies' flat with a girl on six occasions when they had played computer games and sometimes had shared a cannabis joint.

The boy, said Mr Pinnell, was always accompanied by the girl and never alone.

Davies denied to the police supplying them with cannabis and claimed the children had brought the drug along themselves.

He also said there was no ulterior motive in associating with them.

At this point, the Judge said: "The use of cannabis was a sinister element, and he was in the early stages of a grooming process."

Davies' solicitor, Rhodri Chudleigh, said: "He acknowledges it has to be immediate custody."

The Judge said that Davies had struck up friendships in "stark contravention" of the sexual offences prevention order.

And, he said, what occurred horrified the parents of the children.

Said the Judge: "You are in denial still of the circumstances of the offences."

He was disqualified from working with children for life, and the original order is to last indefinitely.

Cosmeston egg trail was a hit

THE Easter sunshine produced record-breaking numbers of families taking part in the Easter Egg Trail at Cosmeston Lakes Country Park.

Over 500 eager Easter egg hunters collected a map from the visitor centre, found the Easter egg posts and answered the 10 questions required to complete the trail and claim their bag of chocolate goodies.

Ranger Aaron Jones

said: "We had a brilliant turn out and it was great to see the children running around trying to find the trail post."

The Easter trail has been held at Cosmeston Lakes for the past three years.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sport development, said: "It was fantastic to see so many people turn out for this event, especially as the weather was so beautiful."

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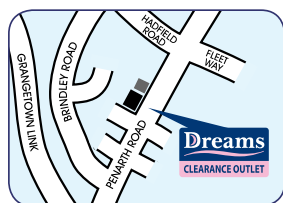
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by MARIA LEIJERSTAM

DOUBLE world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale of Glamorgan, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.

Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.

AFTER work last Tuesday evening, I headed up to Brecon to climb Pen-y-fan as a mark of respect to the 16 Sherpas who were killed on Everest over the Easter weekend.

It was a wet and windy evening and as the light fell over the highest mountain in south Wales, I realised how lucky I was to live so close to such spectacular mountains.

To have the freedom to roam and experience such natural beauty is something we should all



Get on your bike and challenge the family!

take advantage of when we can.

As I was heading home, I dropped into the Garwnant visitors' centre, just off the A470, 14 miles south of Brecon, and was delighted to find the venue for this week's challenge. The centre has been improved dramatically and now features a mini mountain bike skills park, as well as a children's adventure park. Therefore, on your next free weekend, load up the car with a few bikes, outdoor clothes and the family and head for this centre.

The mountain bike skills park is aimed at

children, but is ideal for adult beginners also. There are a variety of features for you to negotiate such as ramps, beams and boardwalks.

If you want to take it one step at a time then that's fine, as all features can either be ridden slowly or avoided completely.

The adventure park, or low ropes course, also at the centre, is a wonderful place for a timed challenge to see how your little ones fare when racing against the clock. This will be a real test of balance, co-ordination, accuracy and strength.

From hanging tires to a zip rope, it's

guaranteed to be a day full of laughter.

Set the challenge between your child and yourself and see who manages the best. Log on to www.burnseries.co.uk for our adventure for full details.

Make sure you join me next week for more adventures. Telephone: 07862 227 187; email maria@burnseries.co.uk

FOOTNOTE

This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have any concerns about your health prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and always let someone know where you are going.

Have you heard of Glympse? It's a brilliant free app that shares your location with anyone you want for a specified period of time.

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Admiral sails to the rescue of Age Concern!



Clients enjoying a cup of tea in the Senior Health Shop Barry.

A CENTRE for older people in Barry can continue for another year – thanks to a donation by local employer, Admiral.

The Age Connects Cardiff & the Vale (formerly Age Concern) Senior Health Shop in Barry received £400 from the company after Ashley Cummings, who works in Admiral's Claims department, applied for funding from the company's Community Chest scheme.

The scheme provides funding for charities, sport teams and organisations in which staff members or their families are involved.

The Senior Health Shop is part of the Ageing Well programme

which aims to improve health and wellbeing of older people (50+) in the Barry area.

Ashley explained: "My Nan attends the shop and was really concerned when she heard it may not be open next year. I knew Admiral had a scheme where I could request funding for local community groups my

family were involved in and this seemed like the perfect opportunity.

"I'm really pleased for my Nan as I know how much she enjoys visiting the shop on a regular basis."

Nona Hexter, Ageing Well Coordinator from local charity Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, said: "We were seeking funding to

support the Senior Health Shop in the future, which included rent and staff costs which underpin every bit of work we do.

"We have worked in Barry for 22 years and the funding from Admiral has enabled us to continue to support many vulnerable older people in the area."

FESTIVAL OF VALE WALKS

THURSDAY, May 29, sees the launch of the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival with a guided walk, 'St Lythan's Ancient and Modern', led by Dr Ffion Reynolds of CADW.

Now in its fifth year, the festival will offer 25 guided walks from May 29 to June 1, to encourage people to visit the area.

Local history will be the theme of walks around Barry, Llantwit Major and Llanblethian with a choice of walks exploring the 'heart of the rural Vale and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast'.

Family walks, bilingual walks for Welsh and English speakers and the return of the popular Vale Ale Trail walk around the Cowbridge area are also included.

All walks are free of charge, just turn up on the day. Information is available online at www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk or through email enquiry at: info@valeways.org.uk, or telephone 01446 749000.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Concerns over out-of-hours care shows need for change

THERE have been two recent reports which have again caused me concern over the health services being provided to residents in the Vale.

One was the statement by the local Community Health Council (CHC) which described the out-of-hours GP service in the Vale as 'diabolical'.

The other related to handover times from ambulance to hospital care.

I receive many complaints from residents in the Vale of Glamorgan about out-of-hours care. I understand that after 1am there are only one GP and one nurse based at the UHW site available to cover the population of Cardiff and the Vale.

Originally the cover was provided by two GPs in the Vale and two in Cardiff, with one GP 'out on the road' in each area.

Over the Easter Bank holiday, one parent of a young baby needed out-of-hours care. They had to wait five hours for a call back from a GP on duty. The target time is to be within one hour. This, of course, has derived from the privatisation of out-of-hours care that was introduced 10 years ago.

This naturally leads people to attend A&E rather than seek assistance locally. This



**Vale MP
Alun Cairns
reports to
GEM readers**

times when the vehicles are being tied up at hospitals with patients they are unable to transfer.

I have been so worried that I met recently with the Local Health Board about Barry Hospital, which included discussions about out-of-hours care. There are concerns that the Vale has no cover at some periods. We should not suffer because of the dominance of Cardiff or administrative bureaucracy.

I highlighted again with the Local Health Board that residents to the west of Cowbridge and as far south as Llantwit Major are particularly at risk as all of the out-of-hours care is based in Barry and Cardiff.

The administrative boundary is the Ogmore River, meaning that residents in Ogmore by Sea have to travel to Barry – this is designed to suit bureaucrats, not patients. I have long called for the western Vale to be serviced through the Princess of Wales Hospital.

I fear we are experiencing the impact of cuts to the health budget here in Wales. The Welsh Government is the only administration across the whole of the UK to cut health spend.

These reports have echoed many feelings that the system should be overhauled. I want service commissioners to address this as a matter of urgency and will do all I can to deliver a change locally.

obviously adds pressure to an already overstretched emergency department.

As we have also seen this week, waiting times at local hospitals that service the Vale have failed to meet the Welsh Government target handover time.

The Vale did not come out well from this report either, with 76 patients waiting for over four hours to be transferred for emergency care.

The report highlights that 29 patients waited over four hours, with 569 waiting for more than two hours.

This is not acceptable and the obvious knock-on effect is a poor ambulance response

Heritage bus rides in!

ON Sunday May 4, the Cardiff Transport Preservation Group is offering free heritage bus rides all day from its 1930s centre, the Bus Depot, Broad Street in Barry.

The 'Running Day' means there will be a bus departing the bus depot giving free travel every half hour to a local destination. Some will be visiting privately-owned heritage buses. All buses will be between 33 to 62 years old!

Mike Taylor, chairman of the group, said: "We tried out a running day for the first time last year and we were surprised how popular it was, especially among local people. A different heritage bus will depart in rotation, on three bus routes, one every 30 minutes. We will be selling a

timetable on the day to go towards the cost of fuel and donations for getting a bus in South Africa back to Barry.

"This is our first major public activity this year as a warm-up to our big Festival of Transport on Barry

Island on June 8, when we are expecting over 200 classic and vintage cars."



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15 years of being there

St Brides are top of the form in road safety quiz



St Brides, the winners!



The runners-up from Victoria Primary.

ST BRIDES MAJOR Church-in-Wales Primary School has won the 2014 Vale of Glamorgan Council Road Safety Quiz.

The team from St Brides Major narrowly beat fellow first-time finalists Victoria Primary School from Penarth in a closely-fought and very exciting final of this popular annual event for primary schools in the Vale.

This year's competition was hosted by the Vale Council's road safety team at the Docks Office in Barry. The all-male team from St Brides finally overcame the all-female team from Victoria by one point on the last question of the competition.

A panel of judges from the road safety team presided over the event, led by Emma Reed, operational manager, who was ably assisted by fellow officers Karen Stokes and Annette Kerslake. They were called into action on several occasions particularly as the teams grew closer and the answers needed to be more precise to gain the points.

Coun Lis Burnett said: "I would like to thank everyone involved in this event and congratulate both teams on reaching the final."

Many schools achieved their highest scores in the Road Safety Quiz for a number of years during the preliminary rounds, showing that all their revision and subject

knowledge really paid off and that standards continue to rise.

The finalists received gift vouchers and goody bags, plus a commemorative plaque each. The winners also received a magnificent glass trophy etched with the names of previous winners.

John Rogers, quizmaster and council road safety officer, said: "A big thank you must go to all the schools who took part in this worthwhile exercise. Win or lose, we hope that all the children enjoyed the experience and managed to take away at least a little more knowledge about road safety, which will hopefully stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives."

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Busy times for the Cadoxton WI

AT the annual meeting of Cadoxton (Barry WI) on Easter Monday, the presiding committee were re-elected.

The president thanked the branch members and the committee members for their support during the last year. The secretary highlighted some of the activities, which included day trips, interesting meetings and lunches at various venues.

The charity coffee morning this year, with the permission of the Vale Mayor, will support Cadoxton school again and also the Coast

Watch.

On Thursday, April 24, members had an enjoyable trip to Llancaich Fawr and lunch at a Harvester. Saturday, April 26 saw the GFWI annual bowls match, held at

Swanbridge, and the Cadoxton team won. Well done to the team.

May will be a busy month: Cadoxton has been invited to Penarth Peers and Sully WI, plus the monthly outing and meeting.

Meetings are held every third Monday at Victoria Park Community Centre at 7pm. Guests and new members are welcome; contact 01446 404891.

CW

WHITE FARM VOLUNTEERS

WHITE Farm conservation group is calling for more volunteers to help plant native Welsh trees along a main entrance into Barry, in memory of the 700 Barry men and women who never returned from the First World War, on Friday May 2, from 4.30pm till 6pm; meeting at the junction of Merthyr Dyfan Road and Port Road East.

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The team at the finish line.



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A SEA of colour filled Coney Beach in Porthcawl for Tŷ Hafan's first 5K Rainbow Run on Sunday, April 27.

More than 1,000 participants were showered in pink, yellow, orange and blue powdered paint for the run – the first event of its kind in Wales.

The Rainbow Run, which is based on the Indian Holi festival of colour, is expected to raise more than £50,000 for Tŷ Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

Angelo Pucella, from Bridgend, who took part with his son Luca and his wife Beth said:

"It has been such a fantastic day. Luca was so excited and he absolutely loved it. It was great to see so many people taking part to raise funds for Tŷ Hafan."

Luca, seven, is the only person in Wales to suffer from ROHHAD (Rapid-onset Obesity with Hypothalamic dysfunction, Hypoventilation and

Autonomic Dysregulation) syndrome and was referred to Tŷ Hafan in 2010.

"Tŷ Hafan has been fantastic and we're so grateful for their support. I'll be taking part in Tŷ Hafan's Three Peaks Challenge next. We try and do everything we can as a family to show our appreciation, and give something back to Tŷ Hafan," said Angelo.

Mair Jeffreys, event organiser at Tŷ Hafan, said: "The Rainbow Run is about celebration, having fun with friends and raising a smile for Tŷ Hafan."

"It was wonderful to see so many Tŷ Hafan families, staff and supporters taking part today. Due to the success of the event, we are already planning our next Rainbow Run in west Wales."

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part, not forgetting our amazing volunteers and sponsors who have made the day possible."

Mann and Diaz bring laughter in The Other Woman

WHEN you're looking for a female actress to head up a studio comedy, the first person many would turn to would be Cameron Diaz.

While a credible actress in her own right, Diaz carries off comedy exceptionally well, and her latest effort, *The Other Woman*, sees her play Carly, who hooks up with Mark (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau). However, she soon discovers Mark is married to Kate (Leslie Mann), and the pair decide to turn the tables on the shiftless man.

When a second affair with Amber (Kate Upton) is discovered, she too joins the pair in meting out justice to Mark...

The set-up for *The Other Woman* sounds (at least to these masculine ears) tired and boring, a case of retreading ground that the likes of *The Women* have already trampled with little laughter and even less subtlety. However, saddling said premise with skilled performers results in a fluffy and satisfying comedy that may be slightly muddled in the message it's trying to put across, but makes for a diverting and amusing film.

Much of the credit lies in the work of the actors on show, none of whom are stretching themselves, but aren't required to. Top of the class is Leslie Mann, an actress who is always watchable, and who seems to be getting the chance to impress in films that aren't produced by her husband, Judd Apatow.

Her character is the pivot of the film, a woman who takes her



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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look glamorous, but she has a few moments to shine in a turn that is better than expected.

The film is directed with very little identity by Nick Cassavetes (director of *The Notebook*, perhaps the finest example ever of a gender-bridging 'chick flick'), the film visually anonymous and edited to feature a musical cue every time the dialogue dries up. The jokes do hit home, but the film looks so overtly glossy and stylised – it's not likely to be discussed by film students in years to come.

While the script is witty, and generates a decent amount of laughs, much of this lies more in the performances than in the actual writing. Melissa Stack's script doesn't really have much substance to it, the humour lacking any real bite, while the message of the film (a woman doesn't need a man, just female friends) gets somewhat obscured, come a conclusion that involves a bikini-clad bottom and a kiss.

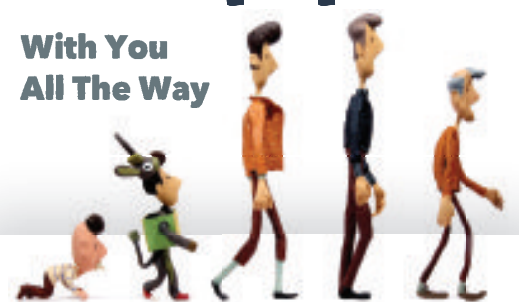
However, as undemanding, female-centric comedies go, *The Other Woman* is a pleasing watch; it looks great on the surface, but any attempt to delve any deeper is pointless and needless.

VERDICT: A bubbly comedy that gets a massive boost from its strong cast, *The Other Woman* is a likeable film that delivers humour in the most undemanding way possible. Ignore the deeper issues that muddy its message, and instead just sit back and watch the likes of Cameron Diaz and Leslie Mann do their comedy thing. *Enjoyable.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Sweetest Thing* (2002), *The Women* (2008).

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Out and About with The GEM

Lions' May fayre fun

THIS bank holiday Monday sees the Porthcawl Lions' annual May Fayre in All Saints' church, Victoria Avenue.

The day starts at 11am with the official opening by the Mayor of Porthcawl, after which there is fun for all. Among the attractions are a children's corner, which includes story times, bric-a-brac, books, homemade cards and soft toys, charity stalls, games for everyone, a dog show and an arena which will provide different entertainments.

When you get hungry or thirsty you can choose from burgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, hot Welsh cakes and follow that with cakes or ice cream.

The fun finishes at 3pm with the draw for the grand raffle. All this for only 50 pence per person entrance; children accompanied by adults free.

Stamp fair

BARRY Philatelic Society is holding a fair in the town.

There will be stamps, postcards, and national dealers present. It takes place at the Highlight Community Centre at the rear of Tesco, Port Road,

Barry from 10am to 4.30pm on Saturday, May 3.

Admission is 50p, refreshments will be available.

The next fair will be on Saturday, November 15. For more details, telephone 01446 741026.

Shadows Club

ON May 3 at Penarth's Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (029 2030 9979), south Wales Shadows Club's meeting – play (use our PA, etc) or just to listen; licensed bar, 8pm. Usually £3; all are welcome.

Computers for beginners

COMPUTER-phobic people living in Communities First areas of Barry are being encouraged to fight their fear on a free four-week Agored Cymru accredited course.

The Vale Council-led Barry Communities First team, in partnership with Vale of Glamorgan Adult and Community Learning, are launching a basic IT skills course in Barry Library on Monday, May 5 from 10am to noon at Barry Library.

Flower club's demonstration

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers' Club will meet at 7.30pm on Wednesday, May 7, in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

Sharon Dower will give a demonstration entitled 'In the Mood For'.

Come, relax and enjoy the evening. A warm welcome awaits you.

Harpeth Rising in Bridgend

The all-women American folk trio Harpeth Rising will be giving their first performance in Wales for Bridgend World Roots at the Cabo

Roche Cafe Bar on May 8, at 8pm.

Bridgend World Roots promotes the very best in world, roots, folk and Celtic music in the area.

The Cabo Roche Cafe Bar is located at 5 Bells Road in Bridgend; admission is £8, more information on 01656 663555.

Art society

ON Thursday, May 8 at Cowbridge Art Society, local artist Shirley-Anne Owen will direct a practical painting session as a follow-up to last week's demonstration.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm to 9pm, and visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Porthcawl shop's 'frock swap' event

A FASHIONISTA'S Frock Swap is being held on Friday, May 9, from 7.30pm in the Green Room, upstairs in Sussed, James Street, Porthcawl.

Entry (£3) includes a drinks and nibbles reception – alcoholic and non-alcoholic. Sustainable Wales organisers say the event is open to men and women.

Life Is For Today (LIFT)

THE LIFT self-help group offers support and friendship to those affected by breast cancer and meets in Cowbridge every other Wednesday between 10am and 1pm (and sometimes between 2pm and 4pm).

Visiting speakers, special activities, relaxation therapies, and an opportunity to chat with others in a similar position are all on offer.

The next meetings will be on Wednesday, May 7 (10am to 1pm) and May 21 in the afternoon, for a talk on 'Fatigue to Fabulous'.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from this group, please call Anne on 01446 772843, or Jan 01446 774575. New members welcome.

It's My Shout

THIS year, in partnership with the Arts Council of Wales and Barry YMCA HUB, It's My Shout is returning to Barry to make a short film for

On your marks for Tenovus' Goodnight Walk!

OVER 300 walkers have already put their names down to light up the night in Cardiff on May 17 – and help make life better for people affected by cancer on the Tenovus Goodnight Walk.

Last year, walkers raised over £40,000 for Tenovus and the Goodnight Walk for 2014 is set to be even bigger and better! The five or 10-mile routes around the Welsh capital have plenty of entertainment

to spur participants on! Bethan Palfrey, challenge event manager at Tenovus, said: "This year, our Goodnight Walk is back, bigger and better than ever with loads more exciting things planned for our walkers, making sure it's going to be a very, very goodnight!"

Registration is £12 with a discounted rate for groups of four walkers. Enter yourself or your team at tenovus.org.uk or call 029 2076 8860 for more information.

SPONSORED BIRDWATCH

A SPONSORED birdwatch has been organised for Saturday, May 3, at Cosmeston Country Park.

The event is open to all and runs from 11am to 1pm. The proceeds of the event will go to ValePlus, a local charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability.

Meet at the visitor centre at 10.45am. Sponsor forms and further details are

available from ValePlus on 01446 746691 or by emailing steve@valeplus.org.uk.

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broadcast on BBC Cymru Wales.

Young people will be offered production and acting opportunities on the film, giving them the chance to discover what working on a set is like, as well as meeting people in the industry who can provide advice and guidance on film and television opportunities.

An information and registration evening takes place on May 8 at Barry YMCA from 7pm.

Bridgend PACT

A POLICE and Communities Together (PACT) drop-in surgery will take place at Bridgend's Asda store on May 9 from 10am – 12 noon.

Scouts Remember

ON May 11 at 2pm, members of the Scout and Guide Association's Barry district will attend St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, for a service led by Father Ben Andrews to renew their Promises and remember fallen members of both associations who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

This will be a special service for both youth organisations, who will be joined by various ex-Service organisations, including the Royal British Legion.

Following the service, members of both organisations and standards will form up on King's Square and parade through the town to the Cenotaph at the memorial hall, where wreaths will be laid. Any ex-members of the organisations are welcome to attend.

Garden party

THE Cowbridge Marie Curie fundraising group is holding a party in the Cowbridge Physic Garden on May 16, at 6.30pm – 8.30pm. Tickets priced £15, to include canapés and a glass of champagne, are available from Davies the Newsgate and David Barnes the Dry Cleaners.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D824.

£2,000: 753928.
The rollover, which now stands at £10,500 was not won this week.
£10: 7 7 1 4 4 2 , 306685, 605598, 885398, 514920, 386209, 653016, 778568, 424180, 866803, 502785, 850630, 127337, 217972, 104988, 217008, 706474, 738458, 517400, 849929.

£5: 583140, 434272, 512035, 414372, 618198, 789826, 679554, 264596, 639182, 322243, 237529.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

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Cock o' the Bristol Channel race

A FLEET of historic Bristol Channel pilot cutters is coming to Barry Yacht Club to compete for the title of 'Cock o' the Bristol Channel' from Friday to Saturday, May 2 – 3.

The boats are the original cutters, now over 100 years old, 50 foot high and 80 foot long, and will recreate the glory years of pilot channel racing where they competed to get to incoming ships first to offer their services.

The cutters have been maintained to such a standard that they are still able to complete this demanding race, run under the auspices of Barry Yacht Club.

The cutters have become recognised world wide as one of the finest class of working sailing craft ever developed, required as they were to remain at

sea in the Bristol Channel in all weathers.

Courtesy of Associated British Ports, it is a rare opportunity to see the cutters as they arrive and lock in at about 8pm on Friday May 2, and leave at 8am the following morning.

Weather permitting the race will start at 10am off the entrance to Barry Harbour, and an excellent view of the boats will be available from the footpath around Nell's Point from about 9am onwards.

Howard Lavis of the Barry Yacht Club said: "The race is as hard fought for now as it was a century ago. Don't miss a unique opportunity to see something very special! This will be a very special sight to witness with these majestic, beautiful boats sailing the Channel. It will be like going back in time."

Further details about the club can be found at www.barryyachtclub.co.uk.

Llantwit pub's beer festival

A Llantwit Major pub is hosting a beer and cider festival over the bank holiday.

The festival at the Old Swan Inn will also feature live music over the weekend from May 2-5.

A spokesman said: "The list includes a selection from Grey Trees, Gower and Celt, and will be complemented by local bands, including Burning Bridges, The Peter Cronin Band, Cherry Five and Seafall".

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who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM! The answer was:

Friday 16th May 2014

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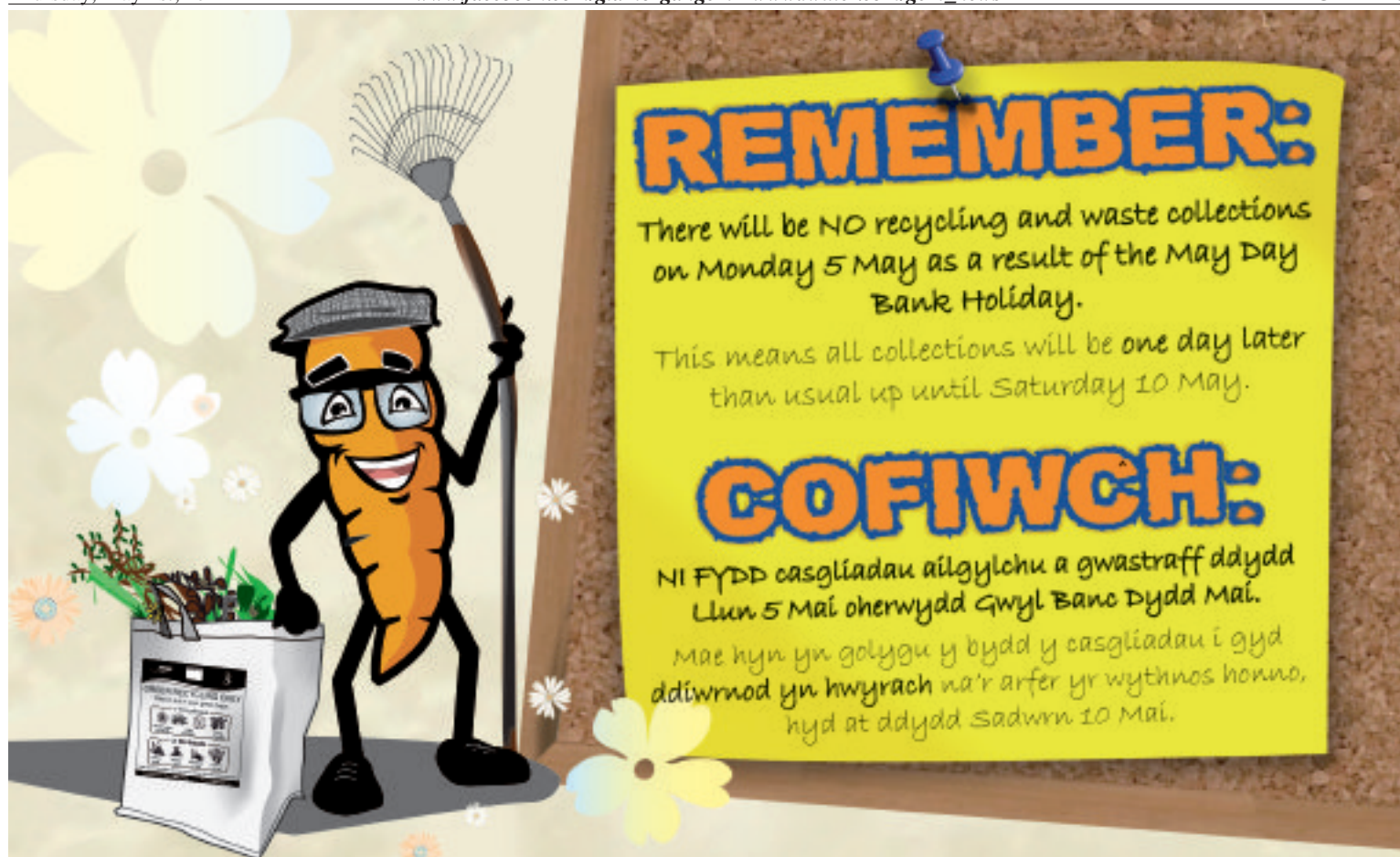
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Recalling The Life and Times of a Liberated Woman

by NANCY DAVIDGE (PART 7)

WHEN my daughter passed the 11-plus, I asked what she would like as a reward, and she decided she would like to go to Rome.

So that is what we did! It was the most rewarding experience – with the magnificence of St Peter's, the Colosseum where so many poor souls had fought for their lives against the odds, and the romantic gesture of the coin throwing in the Trevi fountain.

On my daughter's sixth birthday, we bought her a miniature poodle, that would prove to be the beginning of a love affair with the breed. We had someone who would come to our home to clip 'Popsy' and her two puppies but one day I decided to have a go myself.

Having bought the best equipment I could find, I didn't do very well the first couple of times. I then went away to Bristol for a week's professional training. After that, it just snowballed! I found suitable business premises and employed four trained girls to cope with the 400 dogs on my books.

It was an extremely hectic time. I was also successful in the showing of my toy poodle Trushka at a number of London venues and at the cream of shows, Crufts.

Although we did not win, it was worth the effort just to be there. My next adventure

would take me to Kenya again to see the wildlife, this time, my brother would accompany me.

You may wonder why my husband preferred not to travel abroad – I know it was the fear of again contracting malaria.

On our way to Kenya, we had a short stopover in Rome and then in Uganda, where breakfast was prepared for everyone.

We then continued to Nairobi, where we would stay for one week to see the wildlife, before continuing to Mombasa to enjoy the lovely facilities at the Mombasa Beach Hotel.

How things have changed since my visit and I would be reluctant to visit the area again, since the bombing of Nairobi.

It does help to have family members in certain countries. I have a nephew and a niece living in Bermuda, so I accepted an invitation to a wedding there. It is indeed a place full of romance.

The guild to which I belonged when I lived in London invited members to write an essay on how we could best help the underdeveloped countries.

Encouraged by my husband, I entered the competition and was surprised when I won for the London area. It meant having to go to Stanford Hall, which is the international college for all co-ops in the country.

I based my idea on the Red Farm, which

began in the years prior to the Second World War, when unemployed people from the Valleys came to Llangan to work in local greenhouses and shared in the profits.

The houses built to house the farm workers were at that time charging a few shillings a week rent. Of course, when the Second World War started a number of the original employees left the land to find war work and a higher wage.

I had an open invitation to visit the Seychelles from the Minister of the Interior, who was one of the group from the United Nations.

When I returned to my home and continued my work in the poodle parlour, I was asked to speak to other guilds in the London area about my experience at the college.

I did this for a time then I was invited to speak on other subjects. I replied that I would talk on 'My Poodle and I' and it became an instant success.

I would take two poodles with me and sometimes three. I began getting requests from the east coast. It was becoming too much so I had to eventually stop as it was not being fair to my husband and my employees.

Next week, my American experience!

New plans for Vale libraries could trigger war of words

by PHILIP IRWIN

A WAR of words is likely in the next few weeks as the Vale Council considers proposals to reconfigure library services – a move that hopes to save £500,000 from the council's budget.

While unions representing staff are concerned about proposed reduced opening hours, and the consequent cut in wages, the council is presenting the new plan in a much more positive light, describing it as a "radical redesign".

The plan was considered by the Vale Council cabinet on Monday (April 28) and the cabinet is emphasising that no decision will be taken until after a consultation period.

A council spokesman said: "The radical redesign looks to bring the Vale's library services into the 21st century. The plans, informed by the recent library review will see Wi-Fi service upgraded and extended and digital services such as e-books pushed to the fore."

"Under the proposals, no libraries in the Vale will close but instead new proposals to work in partnership with communities can be agreed".

St Athan, Dinas Powys, Sully and Wenvoe are the ones which could become community libraries, run in partnership between local volunteers with support from the council.

This option will be dependent upon further negotiations and consultation with various organisations and community councils in the areas concerned.

The council suggests that partnerships on this model could even see libraries opened out of hours for book clubs or children's activities as a result of extra flexibility.

However, the council is clearly hoping to make significant savings by cutting the opening hours of five main libraries – Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Penarth and Rhosce.

broaden their appeal to bring in a new generation of library users.

"I would urge anyone interested to read the cabinet report in full and not listen to any rumours, or false and misleading information, that appears to be spreading on this subject," Coun Moore stated.

"It should be emphasised that there will be full consultation on the 'proposed strategy', which looks to find innovative solutions to the huge financial pressures facing local authorities across Wales, rather than just closing services down."

"The council is fully committed to the future of library services and has also committed over £300,000 to refurbish library buildings to ensure a quality service for local residents, and we will continue to do everything within our power to support the Vale's libraries."

Coun Chris Franks of Plaid, who represents Dinas Powys, said: "The way that the community and the staff have been treated is very worrying. Local councillors have been kept in the dark."

"To say that libraries are closing elsewhere is not a reason to downgrade Dinas Powys or, indeed, other Vale libraries. In fact, there has just been a government grant to improve libraries across Wales, including Llantwit as well as Grangeatun."

"Having behaved in this manner, why does the Vale think that volunteers will now step into the breach and assist?"

"There is a lot of anger in Dinas Powys about the attitude of the Vale Council and goodwill is now in short supply."

The council plans will also see a 'pop-up' library service started in the Barry area. This service, which will be run by the Vale Council in partnership with Barry Town Council, will visit care homes and community centres and enable residents with mobility issues to access library services, lost when the previous Vale-wide service was withdrawn.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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Well cleared!
Congratulations to the people who have cleared the weeds and overhanging branches of trees on the road near the river bridge.

This will allow residents to walk their dogs in safety along this very busy road. The whole of the adjoining playing field is also looking good.

Well done to the people responsible. Now the Vale Council

should play its part and begin repairing the many potholes in and around the village. There are still many on the road leading to Llangan.

Well attended
THIS year's Easter morning service at St Mary Hill church was well attended by local parishioners and others from further afield. Again, a big thank you to Mary Lloyd for her efforts in providing breakfast for everyone, as it was so early in the morning (6am!).

DID YOU KNOW...
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Tractor run for Ed Evans cause



PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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ON Sunday, April 27, the Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society held its annual tractor run in support of the Ed Evans Foundation charity.

There was a smaller turnout than in previous years, with 35 tractors leaving Frank Sutton's yard in St Mary Hill at 10.30am.

The lunch break was taken at the

Brackla Café on the Coity Industrial Estate, where the needs of the tractor drivers and the followers were taken care of.

One of the outfits was an international tractor with an odd sign printed on the bonnet "Shoes must be worn when driving this tractor".

On further inquiry, it was discovered that this tractor had come from a nudist

colony! We were told that the new owner's good lady had made it quite clear that she had no intention of driving the tractor until the tractor seat was replaced!

Thanks were extended to Frank Sutton and staff for the use of their site, and it was confirmed that the tractor run had raised in excess of £450 for the charity. BG

Vale will be a test case for Assembly bus network trial

THE Vale has been selected as a trial area for a Welsh Government study on how to improve rural bus networks.

Transport Minister Edwina Hart announced two trials, where the Vale Council, and also Ceredigion, will each receive £100,000 to tackle the problem of rural networks.

The trials will run for a year and be evaluated by the Bus Policy Advisory Group, who will then advise the Minister on what schemes could be rolled-out nationally.

The Vale Council is to investigate a number of schemes, including:

- How to encourage new fare-paying passengers to use rural public transport.
- Establishing a scheduling and booking system for public transport, with ICT

support, reflecting the Green Links services.

- Identifying on-road infrastructure improvements, such as bus stops.

- Establishing a collaborative team to manage services to reduce costs.

- Evaluate the potential for discounted bus travel for young people and those not in employment, education or training.

Andrew RT Davies, the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, said the money was welcome, but little more than a "sticking-plaster".

He said: "Rural bus services have been devastated by Welsh Government cuts of over £24 million and the impact here in the Vale has been particularly profound.

"Whilst this money is welcome, it is a minuscule fraction of the cash lost so far by operators who have in

turn withdrawn numerous local routes.

"It is asking a lot of the Vale council to turn bus services around with this sum – akin to sending a fire fighter in to tackle a forest fire with a damp flannel."

Mr Davies said the focus on increasing take-up of rural services was welcome – but missed the point that in many areas there simply are no bus services.

"I welcome the focus on encouraging local people to use rural bus routes more regularly but in some instances there simply are no buses for them to use.

"I genuinely hope that these schemes are successful because it is vital that people can access work, education and other public services but recent cuts to funding by the Welsh Government have hit the Vale hard.

"The Minister needs to go further and look again at the new system they have introduced to calculate operators' subsidies."

PUBLIC IS URGED: 'Take extra care during firefighters' strike action'

AS firefighters announce further industrial action over the Bank Holiday weekend, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS) is urging communities to be 'extra vigilant' at home and on the roads.

Strike action is planned on May 2, between noon and 5pm; May 3, from 2pm until 2am the following morning; and May 4, from 10am until 3pm.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Rod Hammerton, stressed: "Whilst South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority understand why staff are taking industrial action, as fire and rescue authority has a duty and an obligation to ensure that the

provision of services to the public remains as unaffected as is reasonably practicable.

"The strike dates coincide with a bank holiday weekend when historically people tend to make the most of the holiday period be it travelling, socialising or barbecuing with family and friends.

"During this period, we urge our communities to be extra vigilant as they go about their business, as regrettably the number of SWFRS staff expected to make a protest is high and will also include operational staff.

"This reduction in resources will mean SWFRS will not be able to provide the same high level of response to fires and other emergencies and as such life critical incidents will be responded to as a priority."

ROUTE 66 JUMBLE

ALL are welcome to a jumble sale in aid of local charity Route 66 at Peterston Village Hall on Saturday, May 17, from 10am.

The Route 66 Appeal is a progressive charity aiming to raise money for young people with life-limiting conditions, and a short life expectancy in Wales.

It helps sick 16 – 30 year olds live life to the full for their limited number of years and also provides specialist medical and practical support.

Funding is difficult for these young people and

often help from Route 66 is the key to their happiness. So please come along to support its founders in their attempt to improve services.

You can find out more about the Route 66 Appeal via Twitter – connect to @route66projects.

Any help you can give will benefit these young people who live everyday life with huge challenges and who would just like to do the things that other young people take for granted.

www.justgiving.com/victoria-lidstone

Gina Groom
07968 24 78 23

Craft fair helps the 'Bullies Out' charity

AFTER enjoying its first year celebration on April 5, when many visitors were able to share the delicious cake provided, Enfys Craft Fairs starts its second year on Saturday May 3 at St Ffransis, Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry.

A spokeswoman said: "The fair has many exciting local crafts, hot drinks, and snacks to buy and enjoy; entry is free and open to visitors from 10am to 4pm.

"The charity for April, Velindre

cancer hospital, was pleased to raise over £100 selling the knitted chicks with a chocolate egg inside; £55 was also raised for Velindre from a themed cake made, donated and raffled by Kathy Hinton of West End Cakes.

"The charity for May 3 craft fair will be 'Bullies Out', founded by Linda James in May 2006.

"Bullies Out is a time-limited, solution-focused anti-bullying service which provides just that."

For more information, contact Beryl on 01446 418695, or Cyril on 01446 400149.



Top volunteer Gay a guest at No 10!



Gay Fifield with Alun Cairns at No 10.

VALE resident Gay Fifield joined Alun Cairns MP on a visit to Number 10 Downing Street, in honour of her outstanding contribution as a volunteer in the community.

Mr Cairns nominated Mrs Fifield to attend the reception in recognition of her dedication to serving her community. She runs a number of

community initiatives from the Age Connect (formerly Age Concern) shop on Holton Road, Barry, which includes the Friends and Neighbours group. Mrs Fifield also ran the Barry Hospital League of Friends for many years.

"I was so pleased to nominate Gay for this reception. The Prime Minister hosted the event and it was a lovely evening," the MP reported.

"Gay is a hard-working individual whom I have met on several occasions at Age Connect's senior health shop on Holton Road and the friendship group she runs for people over 60.

"She is an inspiration and this goes a small way to recognising her

hard work and service to the community. There is no doubt that so many benefit from Gay's support. Without her involvement, there would be a significant number of older people who would be isolated."

Mrs Fifield said: "I had a lovely time and had an opportunity to chat to the Prime Minister. We talked about Barry specifically, and the importance of community groups.

"He also recalled his many visits to Barry and said that he was looking forward to bringing the US President to Wales later this year for the NATO Summit.

"He pointed out that a serving US President has never visited Wales before."

Wild boars on the loose in Maesteg!

IN 1998, newspapers around the UK were captivated by the tale of the 'Tamworth Two' – a pair of porkers who escaped from an abattoir near Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

There was even a movie – released in 2004 – although it was hardly a blockbuster. So, what are the

chances of the 'Llangynwyd 42' becoming famous?

At the time of writing, 42 wild boar (23 adults and 19 'boarlets') are on the loose in the Maesteg area after fences were cut at a farm in Llangynwyd.

South Wales Police are warning that although the animals are not an immediate threat to public safety, they may charge anyone who tries to approach them, as the boars will be disorientated, confused and are not used to being out of their pens.

Inspector Paul Thomas said: "These animals are recognised as posing a potential threat. People should take as much care as possible.

"We are investigating the criminal damage and the release of dangerous wild animals, which can carry a sentence in prison.

"Six people have been arrested in connection to this incident and are currently in police custody pending further investigation."

A police spokesperson said that the owner of the farm holds a dangerous

animals licence and had the necessary fencing in place to prevent escapes.

Wild boars are usually nocturnal, foraging in early morning or late afternoon and evening.

Speaking on the radio, BBC Wales naturalist Iolo Williams said that the animals were nervous and were difficult to find once they found a suitable area of woodland.

He recounted that he had once taken a BBC crew to the Forest of Dean, where wild boar are well established, and it had taken three days to get one of the animals on camera.

He added that boar in the Forest of Dean stay on the English side of the border, because the Welsh Government has a 'shoot to kill' policy.

• Any sightings should be reported to South Wales Police on 101 or alternatively ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.

Top chef will mark Topstak anniversary

WOODSTOVE and interiors specialist, Topstak, is celebrating the first anniversary of the opening of its new showroom in the Vale of Glamorgan, with a special open day on May 10, from 10am – 5pm.

One of the key attractions of the day will be a series of exciting and informative cooking demonstrations by top chef Steven Evans, who trained at Nigel Haworth's Michelin-starred restaurant, Northcote.

Steven will be carrying out the demos on Topstak's Esse range cookers, located upstairs in the Gallery Cafe; and will also be showing the public how to create fabulous meals on the innovative Esse Fire Stone outdoor oven.

The Big Green Egg Barbecue system caused a stir when it was launched last year, as it is really easy to control and can be used all year round.

On May 10, Topstak will be giving customers the opportunity to sample some delicious beer can chicken cooked on this intriguing smoke-free

ADVERTISING PROMOTION

barbecue system that is used by many Michelin-starred chefs.

And, of course, there will be the opportunity to sample Topstak's fabulous home-made cakes in the Gallery Cafe.

Plus, there's the famed Topstak stove selection, interior specialities such as designer kitchens, beautiful lights and stylish cookware.

"We are looking forward to seeing our many existing customers, and meeting new visitors who want to see what we offer," says Topstak director, Adam Pedersen.

"The open day will provide an opportunity for customers to see our full range, which includes many new products.

The cooking demos, we hope, will provide visitors to the showroom with helpful and interesting tips."

Topstak - 01446 771 567 - www.topstak.co.uk

Enfys Craft fair helps 'Bullies Out' charity

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Bullies Out is a time-limited, solution-focused anti-bullying service which provides just that.

For more information, contact Beryl on 01446 418695, or Cyril on 01446 400149.

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INSPIRING THE VALE: New grants available for young entrepreneurs



YOUNG entrepreneurs up to the age of 30 in the Vale of Glamorgan, are being given the chance to secure a grant of up to £3,000 to launch their own business. Over £60,000 is available during the coming year.

'Inspiring the Vale Bursaries' led by Creative Rural Communities, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's rural regeneration initiative, has been re-opened to provide assistance to young people looking to implement their ideas for businesses or community enterprises.

The project began originally between 2008 and 2011, supporting 23 new businesses – from barbers to photographers and from caterers to those specialising in renewable energy.

Many of those businesses have continued to grow and now

employ staff of their own and the Creative Rural Communities team is hoping to attract new young entrepreneurs to take advantage of the project.

"We are delighted to announce the re-opening of this grant scheme to support new business development across the Vale of Glamorgan," said Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation.

"The aim of the scheme is to encourage innovation, with an emphasis on support and encouragement and we hope we see many more success stories following in the footsteps of those young people who received funding in the initial phase and are now running successful businesses."

Speaking at a briefing for organisations supporting young people in Barry, Nia Hollins, Senior Rural Regeneration

Officer at Creative Rural Communities, added: "This is a fantastic opportunity for young people living in the Vale of Glamorgan. The chance to secure a bursary can be invaluable to making a business idea a reality."

"Everyone needs help starting out in order to develop. Some of the businesses that received grants through the original project are now employing staff of their own."

"It just goes to show how small projects like this can make a huge difference in the community."

• Grants of up to £3,000 are available to young people, up to the age of 30 living in the Vale of Glamorgan, or have done so in the past and would like to establish a business there.

To find out more about Inspire Vale Bursaries, visit: www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk

The Stagecoach youngsters sing along with the stars!



'AN evening of movies and musicals' was performed at St David's Hall in Cardiff on Saturday, April 26.

The packed auditorium enjoyed unforgettable performances from Wynne Evans (Welsh tenor, 'Go Compare'), Nathan James (ITV's 'Superstar') Sandra Marvin (Hairspray, Chicago) and Sabrina A louche (Les Miserables, We Will Rock You).

Alongside this star line-up, students from Stagecoach Theatre

schools in Bridgend, Cowbridge and Cardiff also performed with professionalism and talent.

The 'Performance Troupe' impressed with two show-stopping medleys from *Top Hat* and *Half a Sixpence*, and a further 70 Stagecoach children sang with great energy and skill in the concert choir. All performers were accompanied by conductor and concert producer Matthew J Hampson and his incredible orchestra. A night to remember for all involved both on stage and in the audience. LR

ABOVE:
Performance Troupe ready to perform items from 'Top Hat'.

Bargains in spring fayre

FAMOUS for over 50 years for stalls full of bargains, this year will be no exception at St Paul's spring fayre.

On sale will be toys, books, DVDs and CDs, gifts and cards, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, sweets, crafts and bottle stall.

There will be a raffle with first prize of £50 and many other prizes.

Doors open on Saturday, May 10 at 2pm at St Paul's Church Hall, St Paul's Avenue, Barry. Admission is 50p and entry for all children is free.

All proceeds from the fayre are to help the continuing work of the Barry Churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan.

Disney sparkles on Ice!

IT'S for the kids, right? I mean, how much fun can an adult expect to derive from Disney on Ice – an ice-skating interpretation of some of the most successful of Disney's films?

Well, the short answer is: quite a lot actually, but half of the enjoyment is obtained from gazing at your children's faces as they watch the show in wonder – and the other half from watching the show itself.

Disney On Ice presents *Worlds of Fantasy* at Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena, reproduced elements from four of Disney's most successful films from recent years: Lightning McQueen, Mater and the crew of Disney/Pixar's *Cars* race across the ice, before we dive into *The Little Mermaid's* enchanting undersea kingdom.

Then there is a visit to the mystical world of Pixie Hollow with Tinker Bell and the Disney Fairies, before the show turns to *Toy Story 3*, where Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Jessie and the rest of the gang escape from over-enthusiastic tots (and the totalitarian regime) at Sunnyside Daycare – and your guides for this journey are none other

than Mickey, Minnie, Donald and Goofy.

Now, your five-year old may well not know who the latter four are, but they will certainly find some of their favourites somewhere, and highlights include Ariel's underworld kingdom being brought to life with skaters using shimmering blue banners to create waves, the cast of *Cars* sliding across the ice, Barbie and Ken skating to sounds of *Kung Fu Fighting* and *Toy Story's* green soldiers dancing to *The Toys Are Back In Town*.

Perhaps the Tinkerbell section is a little long, perhaps the merchandise wasn't that cheap, perhaps £8 is a little too much for a bag of popcorn, but in years to come, will you really remember that or the sparkle in your children's eyes – because there is certainly something here that your child will find magical. RF

THE lucky winners of family tickets to Disney on Ice Worlds of Fantasy at Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena were: Mrs T Burton, Corntown; Reese Convery, Barry; Mrs L Reid, Llantwit Major; and Kerry Batchelor, Barry.

• Congratulations to the winners. Watch out for more exciting competitions in The GEM!

www.swoosh. me.uk needs YOU!

WWW.SWOOSH.M E.UK, the youth information and advice site for the Vale, is looking for new editorial group members.

Swoosh, an online channel offering information, advice and guidance for all young people aged 11-10-25, is part of the National Information and Advice Service in Wales called CLICOnline. Local county websites are being developed as part of the 'All Wales' network to share information and gain support and empower young people to express themselves. om.

The website is also supported by the Welsh Government.

Part of the Swoosh website is to have a Swoosh editorial group of interested young people who can steer the website and content. This group meets once a month in person to discuss the running of the websites and act as reporters, gaining skills and experience along the way at the Vibe Experience warehouse, where they are provided with iMac laptops.

Contact the Swoosh Editor, Beckie Jordan on 01446 700622 or email beckie@vibexperience.co.uk

CLASSES FOR ELDERLY

A NEW weekly Pilates class will be starting on Friday, May 9 at Llanblethian Village Hall from 11.30am-12.30pm.

"Each class will cost £4.50 and the chair-based programme helps older people develop strength and enhance their ability to function better in daily life," a spokesperson explained.

New weekly classes in strength and balance for older people will start on May 9 at Penllyn Village Hall from 10am-11am and costs £4.50 per class.

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Free bicycle safety checks for the summer

IF you're organising a summer fete, fun day, health promotion event, bike week or charity ride then Vale Cycle Servicing can attend and carry out free Dr Bike safety checks on all cycles presented along with advice and guidance for getting back in the saddle.

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STREET FIT is the first dance fitness programme in Wales that blends a perfect mix of edgy dance moves and intense fat-burning exercise for adults of all ages and abilities (children over 15 years welcome).

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improve your health and well-being; strengthen and tone muscles; improve your balance and flexibility; burn up to 600 calories per session; and most of all, get into shape while having fun.

So why not give your licensed street fit instructor Charlotte a call today, to secure your place on 07599345602? With the mention of this advert, you will have your first class for £2; classes after that will be £3.50 per session.

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for any queries or to secure your place

Unemployment falls in the Vale

UNEMPLOYMENT has fallen again in the Vale in the latest figures published by the Office for National Statistics.

The number of unemployed claimants in Vale constituency in March 2014 was 1,929, a claimant count rate of 4.1 per cent. The number of claimants is 339 lower than this time last year.

Local MP Alun Cairns MP said: "This is good news for us locally and shows that although the economic climate is still tough there is cause for gentle optimism."

In Business Update

Llantwit Major entrepreneur is a true business inspiration



Author Alison Stokes (second left) with Layla Bennett of Hawksdrift Falconry (left), NLP therapist Kevin Arnold, Glynn Pegler, CEO of Culture Group and Nathan Dicks of Rewise Learning.

KEVIN ARNOLD from Llantwit Major, who launched his own therapy practice after 30 years of working for BT, is one of a dozen entrepreneurs featured in *Be Your Own Boss*, a new book launched as part of the 2014 Quick Reads series.

Written by Alison Stokes, it is a collection of

inspirational stories from entrepreneurs from all over Wales.

The book was launched in February at The Senedd by Minister for Education, Huw Lewis. Quick Reads are available from bookshops, libraries and online at www.gwales.com.

Kevin retrained in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) and in 2011 launched Momentum Coaching.

He now offers therapy and coaching sessions to clients to help them overcome a range of issues such as depression, smoking, weight loss and lack of confidence. Sessions can be face to face or via Skype.

You can contact Kevin via www.momentum-coaching.co.uk or on 07766 018831. Quote *The GEM* for exclusive special discount offer.

New Pilates class starts in Barry

A NEW beginners Pilates class starts at 10am on Thursday, June 5 at St Nicholas Hall, Barry; the course runs for six weeks and costs £39.

Classes are led by qualified Pilates teacher Sharon Sylvester, who is also an osteopath working in Barry. Classes are relaxing and welcoming.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body, combining

strength with flexibility, suppleness and better posture. The class is suitable for complete beginners.

Clients say they miss Pilates when there is a break and notice a real difference in the way they feel. Classes are held at St Nicholas Hall, Barry with the exception of the 5.30pm class on Mondays at St Francis Millennium Centre in Barry.

To join or for more information, contact Sharon on 07830 085606 or see www.barrypilates.co.uk.

VOG CAN HELP KEEP THE BURGLARS AT BAY

VOG Fire & Security is a new local security company set up by Matthew Hobbs and Andrew Nash.

We offer great value security to homes and businesses in south Wales and guarantee to beat any like-for-like quotation.

Our main aim is to offer people affordable security, along with providing great service.

With 20 years of combined experience in the industry, you can be sure to receive the very best advice that will protect your home, family or business.

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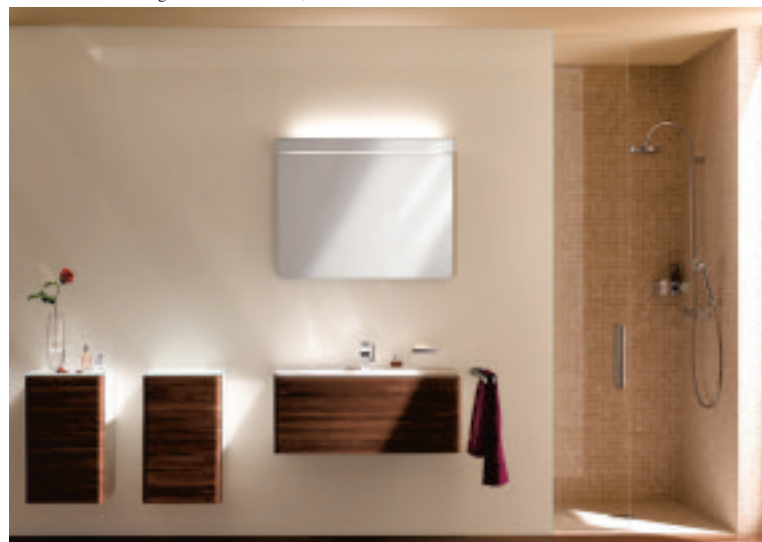
The centre supplies everything a bathroom needs – baths, showers, washbasins radiators, brassware, tiles, fittings – with budget items through to high end products.

A spokesman explained: “We can supply whatever people need, whether it’s for a bathroom, en-suite, wet-room or cloakroom. We

are completely service driven and customer focused.”

Among the many ranges carried are Heritage, Keuco, Kohler, Villeroy & Boch.

For more information, call 02920 340 861, email, @cardiff-bathroom-centre.co.uk or go to www.cardiff-bathroom-centre.co.uk



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www.barrypilates.co.uk

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If you can't reuse paper in some way, Dave Chambers and Colin Watkins, from the Vale Council's recycling team ask that residents place such items in the weekly co-mingled recycling collection.

Cabinet member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis said:

“Newspaper, magazines, leaflets, scrap paper and various packaging, are some of the examples you can recycle from your kerbside collections.”

“Paper is sorted and water is added until it becomes a clean

pulp and is ready to be turned into a new product.

“The newspapers and magazines sent for recycling are turned back into recycled newsprint; usually in around seven days, and can be printed on again.”

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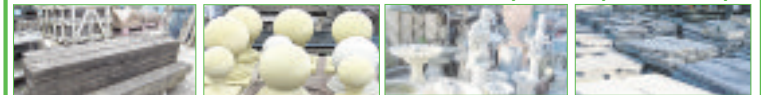


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O	H	B	P	S	A	S	G	U	A	R	D	Z
N	E	N	I	N	A	E	J	F	G	K	I	C
I	O	P	T	F	A	D	R	A	E	L	A	H
C	D	G	O	N	N	R	M	R	T	O	M	I
A	O	A	P	U	D	H	A	R	A	F	O	P
L	R	R	S	D	L	S	C	I	G	G	N	S
A	E	D	T	Z	F	A	H	E	R	S	D	A
R	T	E	A	P	O	N	I	R	I	T	Z	W
M	O	N	K	O	W	E	N	S	P	A	K	A
S	U	Y	T	I	M	B	E	R	A	W	A	Y
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F	P	I	B	O	N	N	Y	T	I	L	E	R

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Chips Away
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**There are 22 companies in the above
list - Find 18 and send us the names
of the missing 4 businesses!**

Normal competition rules apply. Closing date: May 16th 2014 - GOOD LUCK!

South Wales Police remember Brave bobbies who fell in the Great War

THE South Wales Police plan to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War by remembering the serving police officer officers who fell.

Its museum, based at police headquarters in Bridgend, want the public to help gather information about serving officers from predecessor forces who fought and died during World War One.

All stories and information collected, including photographs, letters and newspaper coverage from that time, will be shared with the public via www.south-wales.police.uk/moreaboutus/museum, a spokesperson said.

Volunteer researchers are busy exploring the collection of records held in the force museum and other museums in Wales that house information relating to the police service and the police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

They have already unearthed numerous stories, including that of Company-Sergeant-Major Richard Thomas, of Bridgend, who was a former police officer for the Glamorgan Constabulary.

In a news article which featured in the Glamorgan Gazette, on July 21, 1916, we read that his death was announced by Regimental-Sergeant-Major John Thomas, who was his fellow police sergeant at Bridgend.

In a letter to his wife written on July 10 he said: "Just a line to let you know that I am all right. Wish I could say the same about the other boys. Poor Dick Thomas was killed yesterday morning where the big fighting that you read about in the newspapers is going on. Captain

RIGHT:
Company-Sergeant-Major Richard Thomas of Bridgend, formerly of Glamorgan Constabulary, and captain of the Bridgend Rugby Club.



Herdman and he were leading the company into action, and Dick was about the first to be knocked over.

"The captain was wounded. Bob Harris was also killed near the same spot. Trinder was wounded, and is now in hospital. No doubt this will come as a terrible shock to Mrs Thomas.

"Colonel Smith is all right but we are very upset over the loss of Dick. He used to keep us all alive with his jokes."

The 'Bob Harris' referred to (also exceedingly popular amongst the officers and men of the Glamorgan Constabulary) was formerly Sergeant RJ Harris, who was stationed at Aberkenfig and for a time at Nantymoel. Both were in the same battalion of the Welsh regiment.

Sergeant Dick Thomas was also well known as the Bridgend, Mountain Ash and Welsh international rugby forward.

Director of Legal Services Gareth Madge said: "During the First World War, many serving police officers from the Glamorgan, Swansea, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath and Cardiff Constabularies found themselves serving King and Country.

"We have already unearthed a wealth of information relating to the police officers who served during World War One, which includes those mentioned in dispatches and recognised for acts of gallantry."

Be nice to the nettles!

THE National Botanic Garden of Wales is urging you to 'Be Nice to Nettles' as part of a month-long celebration of plants and health.

'Medicines in May' is a fixture in the garden's event calendar and, this year, it focuses on how our ancestors made use of medicinal plants - right back to the 1600s, when the destiny of the first Middleton Hall was forged in the fortunes of seafaring adventurers trading spices in the East Indies (May 3-4).

The story of the garden is told and includes 1824, when the Regency Middleton estate was up for sale,

following the death of Sir William Paxton, who created many of the features we see in the Garden today (May 10-11).

On Saturday and Sunday May 17-18, take a trail around the garden and meet the people, plants and places associated with the life and times of 1914.

There's a whole month's worth of talks, trails, fun and games. But the sting in this particular tale is 'Be Nice To Nettles' weekend (May 24-25) when you can join modern-day herbalist Nicola Dee Kelly and discover the wonderful herbal uses of *Urtica dioica*.

in an article published on Friday October 22, 1915 for receiving a DCM in the field for acts of conspicuous bravery.

Grant is reported to have taken part in a memorable attack on Loos and also in the storming of Hill 70, where he distinguished himself by several acts of bravery, including bringing to safety a wounded comrade under a perfect hail of shell and machine gun fire.

Gareth Madge added: "We want to make sure we uncover as much information as possible about our proud history and the many men who served both the force and their country ensuring they are not forgotten."

If you have information or stories you would like to share or have the contact details of someone you think could make a contribution please email us at: policemuseum@south-wales.pnn.police.uk.

Choc full of talent!



The winner, Teghan.



Mark - highly commended.

NICKLEBY'S bookstore has thanked all those who entered its fantastic Easter colour-in competition.

It was a close call deciding who would be the winner of the delicious chocolate egg as there were so many beautiful creations. In the end it was Teghan's (aged 5) wonderful artistic abilities that made her the winner. Close behind Teghan was Henry (aged 6), who came highly commended. Both enjoyed their egg-cellent chocolate prizes!

Bethan Davies

LOCAL MUSEUM KEEPS VISITORS HAPPY



PROVING the value of an all-weather attraction at Barry Island, the Glamorgan War-time Heritage Centre saw a steady stream of soggy visitors during its Easter Sunday open day.

The centrepiece was a replica police box, which looked like a TARDIS, sat on the station platform.

Event organiser Ade Pitman explained its significance, saying: "Today if you see a police box on the street you instantly think that an episode of Dr Who is being filmed, but the irony is that the TARDIS was designed to look like a police box so that it would blend in."

"Before police radios, there were thousands of these boxes across the country, providing both the police and the public with a means of contacting the emergency services. It

would be interesting to learn where these were sited in Barry.

"With the assistance of a couple of Dr Who impersonators, we were able to educate visitors about this, and show them what a real police box would have looked like, both inside and out.

"It's all about helping our visitors to enjoy learning history."

Showing how to survive the horrible weather conditions of Easter Sunday were cadets from 372 Squadron (Barry) ATC, who regularly volunteer at the museum.

While some cadets experienced and discussed what it was like to wear the uniforms and equipment of the past, fresh from their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, others made a bivouac on the station platform and demonstrated their fieldcraft skills.

Warm inside the station building, local veterans turned authors, Eileen Younghusband

and Alun Higgins, discussed their latest books, while the heritage trains of the Barry Tourist Railway ran a regular service from Barry's Waterfront to the Island.

Ade concluded: "Although the weather meant that visitor numbers were less than expected, our tiny museum and Barry's tourist railway once more provided an interesting attraction for all the family."

"If you haven't yet visited us, the Glamorgan War-time Heritage Centre is open Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm, and we'll be open in support of events at the Island throughout the summer. We are also available for group bookings."

To keep up with the latest news and events, follow Barry at War on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BarryAtWarHistoryGroup. You can also contact Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.



ABOVE: Dr Who meets the volunteers at the War-time Heritage Centre.

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Council progress on waste management

THE Vale Council has been recognised as the third lowest-cost authority in Wales in terms of its waste management services.

A recent waste finance benchmarking project carried out by the Welsh Local Government Association found that the Vale provided a very cost-effective waste management service.

The council had a very low average expenditure of less than £3 per household per week across household waste collection services.

The Vale also ranked as second

highest in Wales for the amount of food waste collected per household, collecting on average a huge 97kg from each household across the year, and eighth highest for dry recycling collection with just short of 12,000 tonnes being collected across the area.

Director of visible services and housing, Miles Punter, said: "Overall expenditure in the Vale has fallen compared to 2011/12 yet our services are continuing to improve and are consistently outperforming other councils in Wales by some way, and it is a testament to the fantastic work of the whole waste management team and the support of our householders."

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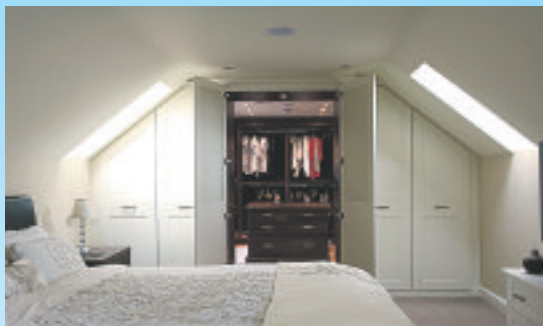
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New exhibition at Art Central



Left to right: Tracey Harding, George Little, Coun Howard Hamilton, Carol Hamilton.

ART CENTRAL, the Vale Council's art gallery, is displaying a collection of work by the artist George Little.

The exhibition was officially opened by the Deputy Mayor for the Vale Council, Coun Howard Hamilton, who said that in his opinion, Art Central was one of the best galleries in south Wales.

He went on to introduce the artist George Little and invited him to give a short speech about his life and work.

The artist captured the attention of the crowd as he spoke of the influences and experiences that shaped his practice.

Little was born in Swansea in 1927; the industrial surroundings of his environment when growing up had a significant influence on his life and working style. This influence can be

easily recognised when walking around the gallery, with walls adorned by imaginative and colourful paintings of derelict copper and iron works, abandoned rolling mills and dockscapes.

The title of the exhibition is 'Industrial Shadows'.

The artist also spoke of his time teaching drawing and painting at the Barry Summer School during the 1960s, which attracted pupils from across the globe.

The exhibition will be on until May 10. The Art Central Gallery in the Town Hall, King's Square, Barry, is open to the public from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday.

Further information about this and future exhibitions at Art Central can be found at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/artcentral.

Dinas charity race night raises £1,200



Rotarians Dennis, Aaron and Paul enjoy a fish supper.

LAST week, Dinas Powys Rotary Club hosted a charity race night in the Village Hall – with the proceeds going to local and national charities.

The race night has run for the past six years and each time has raised hundreds of pounds for charity. This year was no exception with £1,200 raised.

Race organiser Rotarian Simon Watts

said: "I think it all went really well. There was a really good atmosphere, people gave generously on the night and we had some really good fun. I am pleased everyone enjoyed themselves."

Each race took place with big money to be won. The races were sponsored by a company, community group or family and each horse was owned by a family or individual, with the winning owner being presented with a bottle of wine.

The horses in the final race were auctioned off to the highest bidder with the money donated to nominated charities and later, the raffle took place.

Simon added: "I am really happy with the event the money raised and the continued support of the local community."

COLIN JONES

Easter walks benefit from good weather

OVER the Easter weekend, two local walks were enjoyed.

The first was a stroll in the Wenvoe area with Geraint and sheepdog Patch, when 19 ramblers and Pepper the spaniel headed up through pretty paths in Wenvoe wood to St Lythans Church, dedicated to St Bleddian, which was being prepared for Easter Sunday and therefore open.

Hedgerows, trees and fields were exploding with colour as they made their way to the Dyffryn lane, tramping on to the burial chamber at Tinkinswood for lunch, where the rising easterly breeze had a distinct chill.

More fields at the rear of Dyffryn Gardens led on to a busy lane before the familiar Neolithic burial chamber at St Lythans.

These cromlechs, as well as being places to lay the bones of the dead to rest, were also ceremonial sites where people would meet to socialise, barter goods and exchange gifts.

Moving on through fields near Goldsland Wood, passing old lime kilns where the process of making lime to be used on agricultural land took around a week to complete, paths through

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

a small wood and across Wenvoe golf course led the group back to Burdonshill and the short descent to Wenvoe village.

Robin and Pepper's choice of a seaside walk at Kenfig on Easter Monday paid off with glorious warm sunshine for the whole day. Leaving the nature reserve to cross sandy paths to the ruined Kenfig Castle, originally built of wood, the leader imparted some of its history to his captive audience of 13 ramblers.

Passing the old railway sidings and crossing the footbridge over the River Kenfig, the coast beckoned and finding a sheltered spot above Kenfig Sands for lunch, views towards Swansea Bay and Mumbles were misty.

They walked up to Sker Point, then along the coast path towards Porthcawl, where restoration of the sea defences are being carried out after the devastation caused to the area by winter storms.

They turned inland to The Rest, founded by James Lewis, a physician

and surgeon whose work with the sick and injured industrial workers in the Llynfi Valley convinced him that a convalescent home close to the sea was needed, resulting in this impressive building.

From Nottage, a quiet track led the group to the yellow painted Sker House, which was a monastic grange some 900 years ago and is now restored and privately owned.

Then a short trek across the golf course led back to their start before a refreshing cool drink was enjoyed at the nearby Prince of Wales Inn to round off the day.

On May 3, meet 8.20am at Cogan Leisure Centre to share transport to Defynnog, followed by a bus trip to Dan yr Ogof and a 12-mile hard linear walk back to Defynnog; contact Phil on 01446 711533.

On May 4, meet 10am at Cogan for a six-mile moderate walk at Radyr and St Fagans; contact Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks.

Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

JOY STRANGWARD

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR VOTING...

ON Thursday, May 22, European parliamentary elections are taking place across the country.

It's crucial in the run-up to the elections that the public know how to exercise their right to vote. Whether you've already decided who to vote for, or are still thinking about how to cast your vote, there's one vital step you need to take.

You need to register to vote now as time is running out. The deadline for registration is Tuesday, May 6.

Why does this matter? If you're not registered by the deadline then you won't be able to have your say on election day. You must be on the current electoral roll in order to cast a vote.

Our research shows that 44 per cent of people who are not registered to vote mistakenly believe they are. Many people believe that if they are registered to pay council tax then they are automatically registered to vote. This just isn't true.

Registering to vote is free, easy to do and only takes a few minutes. Visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk and print off a registration form, fill in your details and send it back to the local Electoral Registration Officer. Remember: it's your vote, don't lose it!

GARETH HALLIWELL, Electoral Commissioner, Wales, The Electoral Commission.

Cyfle olaf i gofrestru i bleidleisio ar gyfer etholiadau Mai

DDYDD Iau, Mai 22 mae etholiadau Senedd Ewrop yn cael eu cynnal ledled y wlad. Rhowch unrhyw etholiadau perthnasol yn eich ardal.

Mae'n hanfodol yn y cyfnod cyn etholiadau bod y cyhoedd yn gwybod sut i arfer eu hawl i bleidleisio. P'un a'ch bod eisoes wedi penderfynu dros bwy i bleidleisio neu eich bod yn dal yn pendroni sut i bleidleisio, mae un cam hanfodol sydd angen i chi gymryd. Mae angen i chi gofrestru i bleidleisio nawr gan fod amser yn prinhaau. Y dyddiad cau i gofrestru yw dydd Mawrth Mai 6.

Pam fod hyn yn bwysig? Os nad ydych wedi cofrestru i bleidleisio yna ni fyddwch yn cael dweud eich dweud ar ddiwmod yr etholiad. Mae'n rhaid i chi fod ar y gofrestr etholiadol bresennol er mwyn gallu pleidleisio.

Mae ein hymchwyl yn dangos bod 44 y cant o bobl nad ydynt wedi'u cofrestru yn credu eu bod wedi'u cofrestru. Mae nifer o bobl yn credu eu bod wedi'u cofrestru i bleidleisio yn awtomatig os ydynt yn talu treth gyngor. Dyw hyn ddim yn wir.

Mae cofrestru i bleidleisio am ddim, mae'n hawdd gwneud, ac mae'n cymryd ychydig funudau. Ewch i www.fymhleiddlasi.co.uk ac argraffwch ffurflen gofrestru, llenwch eich manylion a'i dychwelyd i'ch Swyddog Cofrestru Etholiadol lleol.

Cofiwch: eich pleidlais chi yw hi, peidiwch â'i cholli!

GARETH HALLIWELL, Comisiynydd Etholiadol, Cymru, Y Comisiwn Etholiadol.

MP's blindfold bus journey in Barry

VALE MP Alun Cairns will undertake a blindfold bus ride in Barry on Friday (May 2) courtesy of Guide Dogs Cymru.

The event, starting at Barry Library at 11am, will highlight the problems faced by blind and partially sighted bus users in the Vale, including guide dog owners.

A survey for Guide Dogs last year showed that many blind and partially sighted people in Wales are unable to enjoy the freedom that others take for granted because they find travelling by bus so difficult.

Guide Dogs is making a fresh call for all buses in Wales to feature next-stop audio announcements to help

passengers with sight loss. Without such announcements, blind and partially sighted passengers have to rely on the driver, or people sitting near them, to tell them when they arrive at their stop.

Andrea Gordon, of Guide Dogs Cymru and a guide dog owner herself, said: "Audio announcements on buses make a huge difference to passengers with sight loss. Guide Dogs wants all buses to be Talking Buses, fitted with on-board audio-visual technology which announces bus routes, destinations and next stops."

"We also want more training for bus drivers, so they know how to support passengers who are blind and partially sighted."

AM praises council's parking fine restraint

SOUTH Wales Central AM and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, has expressed his concern over the sums generated by Welsh councils from parking charges.

He said that treating parking as a "cash cow" would harm local high streets.

In figures, the Vale Council is shown as the second lowest earner from parking charges in Wales.

The figures were published by the RAC

Foundation, whose analysis of Welsh Government data has shown that Welsh councils generated £30 million last year from parking charges.

The Vale generated £318,000 compared to high earning Cardiff which raised a staggering £6.2 million.

Mr Davies said: "It is somewhat concerning that councils across Wales appear to be generating huge revenue streams through parking charges."

"I appreciate that some of the money collected through charges will be used to improve facilities or to pay for services, but prohibitive prices can

have a damaging impact upon local high streets – particularly given the emerging trend for out of town shopping centres with free parking."

"This may be less of an issue in city-centres like Cardiff but for high streets like Barry and Cowbridge, the availability of reasonably priced parking is essential, especially when public transport connections are often poor."

Mr Davies said he was "pleased that the Vale Council had so far resisted the opportunity to treat parking as a cash cow; a move that would harm local high streets and the wider Vale economy".

AM praises Vale Foodbank volunteers

THE local AM, Jane Hutt, joined Vale Foodbank volunteers at Tesco's in Barry's Highlight Park at the weekend, to praise them for their hard work and to thank shoppers for their donations.

She expressed strong support for the work of the Vale Foodbank, which is "helping vulnerable families and

individuals in our communities across the county".

It was clear that foodbank use in the Vale has been increasing since the first foodbank was started by Coastlands Church.

The most recent distribution centre opened at St Mary's Church in Holton Road, Barry and is open on Friday afternoons.

'Support the elderly' – RVS

PLEASE support Royal Voluntary Service's Great Brew Break by inviting friends, family or colleagues for a cuppa and a chat this week and make a donation, so we can help more lonely older people stay independent.

Royal Voluntary Service volunteers provide a vital lifeline for older people – whether that's help after a stay in hospital, a visit

LETTER

to a Royal Voluntary Service community centre, or just a simple cuppa and chat at home.

Please visit www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/brewbreak for more information.

SALLY RIVERS, Head of operations for Royal Voluntary Service Cymru, Royal Voluntary Service, Beck Court, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff CF23 8RP.

SAM'S THE MAN TO INSPIRE YOUNG LOCAL PLAYERS!



Wales captain Sam Warburton (far left) and Herbert R Thomas staff with Cowbridge RFC mini rugby players.

BUDDING rugby players from Cowbridge had the opportunity to meet their Wales rugby idol, Sam Warburton, when he paid a special visit to meet the mini and junior teams from Cowbridge RFC.

The British and Irish Lions and Cardiff Blues back row ace delivered two questions and answer sessions to over 50 players, where they were able to pick up rugby tips and advice.

The event, which took place at the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge, was organised as part of the Cardiff Blues' 'Adopt a Player' programme, which provides every rugby club within the Blues' region with the opportunity to receive player visits directly to their club.

Philip Thomas, partner at Herbert R Thomas estate agents, which sponsors Cowbridge RFC, said: "A number of my nephews play for the junior team, so I was delighted when the club informed us that Sam would be attending a question and answer session in Cowbridge.

"Sam is a true inspiration to all of the players, as he clearly shows how hard work and determination will lead to success.

"At Herbert R Thomas, we have a strong link to rugby and Cowbridge RFC in particular, as many of our colleagues have relatives within the teams.

"All the players had a great evening, as did the parents who attended, and we'd like to thank Sam for taking the time out of his busy schedule to come down and talk to our team. We'd also like to thank the Bear Hotel for their

hospitality."

Sam Warburton said: "It was great to come down to Cowbridge to meet the mini and junior teams. I love Cowbridge. My agent and auntie and uncle live here, so I'm often here.

"I really enjoy getting out into the community as part of the 'Adopt a Player' scheme and doing Q&As is always fun.

"It's interesting to hear the questions the kids have and it's always guaranteed to put a smile on my face.

"When I was in school, former Cardiff RFC player Ben Evans visited us and I remember being really inspired by him. I hope to have had a similar effect on these players."

PHOTOGRAPH by
MIKE WILCOCK



Equine expert Eric stays the (Monmouthshire) course!

RIGHT: Winner Eric Dafydd being congratulated by Steve Cross, captain of the seniors' section at Cottrell Park.

THE Monmouthshire Golf Club, just outside Abergavenny and set against the beautiful scenery of the Usk Valley surrounded by The Blorenge, Sugar Loaf and Skirrid mountains proved the perfect location for the Spring away day for the senior members of Cottrell Park Golf Club, organised by captain of the seniors' section Steve Cross.

Officially opened in 1938 as an 18-hole course and developed over the same ground that once drew large crowds to enjoy the Monmouthshire races, including the famous National Hunt Chase, now firmly established as part of the Cheltenham Festival, this magnificent parkland course is well worth a visit.

It seems ironic therefore to report the first past the post with 39 stableford points to win the captain's Spring away day competition was Eric Dafydd, better known throughout the Vale for his vast knowledge and experience in the equine market.

Runner-up with 38 points was Bill Moore, with Gregor Munro taking third place, also with 38.

In fourth place with 37 was Ray Reakes followed by Brian Pritchard and David Stephenson also with 37 but an inferior back nine.

Steve Charlton hit the longest drive of the day on the selected 18th hole, while nearest the pin on the par three holes were Chris Stanlake, Edward Knott, Eric Dafydd, Mike Quick, Ray Rakes and Terry

Scott.

The winners of the team prize with 115 points were Peter Archer, Edward Knott, Brian Pritchard and Bill Moore. In second place with 105 were Norman Cole, Mike Quick, David Hopkins and John Clarke and in third place with 104 were Graham Kellett, Eric Dafydd, Wyn Pryce-Jones and Aubrey Bowen.

TMCC

Cowbridge lift the Barry Cup!



Cowbridge Town FC won a dramatic match with Cardiff Airport on penalties last Sunday at Jenner Park, and in the process lifted the Barry Cup for the first time in their history. Here are a selection of images from the day.



Vale golfer heads junior order of merit

TIM HARRY (Vale Resort) continued his excellent start to the season with a tied eighth place finish at the Peter McEvoy Trophy at Copt Heath.

Harry returned rounds of 78, 72, 74 and 68 and was closely followed by Joshua Davies (Celtic Manor) who was a shot further back in 12th place with rounds of 70, 73, 76 and 74.

Harry gains 44.25 Hugh James points for his finishing position and 50 for making the cut (total of 94.25) and Davies 36 and 50 for a total of 86.

Trubshaw Cup JACK DAVIDSON (Llanwern) ended in second place and best placed junior at the Trubshaw Cup with rounds of 79, 73, 73 and 71 at Tenby and Ashburnham Golf Clubs.

Davidson was closely followed by Tim Harry (Vale Resort) who finished two shots behind in third place with rounds of 80, 80, 69 and 69.

Davidson opens his Hugh James account with 120 points; Harry retains his overall lead with an additional 80.

Hugh James Order of Merit AFTER the Trubshaw Cup:

First, Tim Harry (Vale Resort) 253.25; second, Joshua Davies (Celtic Manor) 181.6; third, Jack Davidson (Llanwern) 120; fourth, Lewys Sanges (Celtic Manor) 100; fifth, Thomas Froom (Nefyn) 60; sixth, Kyle Harman (Radyr) 50.



Barry Seconds beaten in final

BARRY 2nd XV ended their season as they travelled to Pentryrch on Thursday night to face Cardiff Metropolitan University in the East District Cup final.

With the daunting task of facing such a quality side, who have won the cup in the past seven years and have won every single game this season, coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow brought back Tony Heard in the front row, Einar Scott at outside half and Glynn Jones in the pack.

Luke Bounds, fresh from his try scoring return on the weekend, was included on the bench.

Barry did not get off to a great start, as the holders scored from their first attack of the game, a simple move in midfield piercing the green-and-whites' defence to score under the posts.

Roared on by a large travelling support, Barry rallied themselves and a series of forward drives saw Cardiff Met fall foul of the referee's whistle,

but Einar Scott was unable to kick the three points from a difficult angle.

Cardiff Met then showed their class when their number 10 executed a perfect cross-field kick to see their winger collect before setting up a try in the corner.

More tries came and went as the holders justified their reputation, but Barry rallied on, aided by some superb tackling by Tiernan Scott, Glynn Jones and John Miles.

The loudest cheer of the day came late in the first half when a superb break from Einar Scott saw him put Ethan Dix in to score a memorable try. Scott himself added the extras.

Now showing more confidence, Barry tried to take the game to Cardiff Met and more aggressive approach play by the forwards and backs alike saw Joel Williams chip ahead, Dix chasing, but narrowly missing out on touching down in the corner.

Barry brought on fresh legs after the interval in an attempt to live with the cup holders' pace and finesse, and there were good contributions in

defence by Mephram, Hewitson and Bounds.

Ultimately, however, a side of Cardiff Met's quality did find gaps in the tiring Barry defence and more tries came and went, especially late on when the green-and-whites were down to 14 men following the sin binning of Jason Thomas.

It was the predicted result – a handsome win by the seven-time winners, but Barry can leave the pitch with their head held high as they fronted up to quality opposition and showed superb attitude and commitment throughout the 80 minutes.

The management would like to thank all the players and supporters who made the journey up to create such a rousing atmosphere. The squad will hope to take the cup final memories onwards towards next season.

Team: T Scott; Adams, D Williams, Dix, Hamonda; E Scott, J Williams; Hosking, Vidal, Heard; G Jones, Case; J Jones, Miles, Rolfe ©. Replacements: Thomas, McTavish, Goodfellow, Hewitson, Mephram, Bounds, Flynn. Man of the match: Case. KC

ON AND OFF THE TURF WITH BRIAN LEE

Gale Force Oscar storms home at Chepstow!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk



GALE FORCE OSCAR, a nine-year-old brown gelding qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt, stormed home a very easy winner of the Dunraven Bowl Novices Hunter Chase at Chepstow Racecourse leaving a trail of well beaten horses in his wake.

Confidently ridden by leading Welsh rider John Mathias, Gale Force Oscar - described in the racecard by Timeform as a 'prolific winning Irish pointer' - finished an official 20 lengths ahead of Supreme Regime (Joe Knox) with Doc Wells (Nick Williams) a further four lengths away in third spot. Patricktom Boru (Evan David) was fourth.

Gale Force Oscar, who won four races on the bounce when trained in Ireland, landed a big gamble and was returned the 5-2 favourite.

John Mathias, who hails from Tenby, is bred into the sport. His grandfather Fred Mathias and father Philip were both leading amateur riders and the one thing he has in common with his father is that they are both recipients of the Wilkinson Sword Trophy, which is awarded to the leading riders under 21.

Philip was awarded his in 1982 and John his in 2007. John rode himself into the record books in 2011 when booting home six winners at the Tyviside, a feat never achieved before or since.

He has ridden well over 100 winners between-the-flags and

has come close on a couple of occasions to winning the national point-to-point riders' championship.

On dismounting in the winners' enclosure, winning rider Mathias told me: "He had some good form in Ireland and he qualified for the race when finishing second to Chosen Milan at the Curra & Llangibby at Howick in March."

Winning owner/trainer Lee Power, a former professional footballer and chairman and owner of Swindon Football Club, has a point-to-point yard in the Port Talbot area.

Unfortunately, he missed see his horse win Wales' most prestigious point-to-pointers' race as he was in Portugal.

Mr Power owns the Saturday Racing Plus newspaper which also carries a point-to-point supplement.

'BRACEY' GREAT SUPPORTER OF WELSH RACING

The sponsor of the prestigious Dunraven Bowl Novices' Hunter Chase held at Chepstow Racecourse last Friday was David Brace OBE, the group chairman, founder and the inspiration behind Pyle-based Dunraven Windows.

'Bracey', as he is popularly known, who owns and manages the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle near Bridgend, has been a great supporter of the Welsh Turf, be it between-the-flags or under the full rules of the sport.

In June 2012, he was awarded hunt-racing's highest honour - the Point-To-Point Racing Company's Jim Mahon



Industry Award. The award was created to recognise those who have made an outstanding contribution to point-to-pointing and hunter chasing and Maesteg-born David was without doubt a worthy recipient.

A bigger honour was to come his way when in November 2012 he received a letter from 10 Downing Street informing him that he had been recommended for an OBE for his charity and business work.

Without the support of his wife Dawn and sons Matthew and Andrew,

David admits he could not have pursued his horse racing and horse breeding activities.

As a young man, David worked alongside his father Evan at the local coal-mine. Little wonder then that it was his beloved father who had the biggest influence on his life.

A long time member of the Llangeinor Hunt, David has owned, bred and trained many winners over the years and he had the pleasure of seeing his Moon Catcher win at both Cheltenham and Aintree, the spiritual homes of steeplechasing.

During the 2012/13 hunt-racing season, he saddled 21 winners (six more than his nearest rivals) to land the National Leading Point-To-Point Owners Championship.

This season, he is already leading his rivals a merry gallop, and on Saturday, Cock Of The North was successful for him at the Farmers Bloodhounds fixture at Whitfield. Partnered by Sean Bowen, son of leading Welsh trainer Peter Bowen, Cock Of The North was his 13th winner of the season.

BRIAN LEE

Brynhill golf club results

BRISTOL Cup qualifier results 2014:

1 Julian Hopkins & Glyn Morris 65; 2 Lee Price & Mickey Perry 66; 3 Kevin Perry & Steve Jones 67; 4 Kevin Williams & Mike Moore 67; 5 Wayne Adams & Sam Preston 67; 6 John Hardin & James Ham 68; 7 Alistair Woodward & Richard Bond 68; 8 Ryan Keedwell & Dan Peters 68; 9 John Wakefield & Elliot Cayton 68; 10 Carl Williams & Matthew Thomas 68; 11 Mark McCafferty & Joe Brookman 69; 12 Aeron Smith & Nathan Clissold 70; 13 Simon Pringle & Scott Warne 70; 14 Scott Bowman & Chris Phillips 70; 15 Mike Moore & Elliot Palmer 70; 16 Gareth Tinnuche & Steve Price 70.

MATCHPLAY DRAW

Julian Hopkins & Glyn Morris v Gareth Tinnuche & Steve Price; John Wakefield & Elliot Cayton v Ryan Keedwell & Dan Peters; Wayne Adams & Sam Preston v Aeron Smith & Nathan Clissold; Simon Pringle & Scott Warne v Kevin Williams & Mike Moore; Kevin Perry & Steve Jones v Scott Bowman & Chris Phillips; Mark McCafferty & Joe Brookman v John Hardin & James Ham; Alistair Woodward & Richard Bond v Carl Williams & Matthew Thomas; Mike Moore & Elliot Palmer v Lee Price & Mickey Perry.

CS

Coach role for local team

THE Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club has an exciting opportunity for a new coach to play a key role in the development of its junior girls section for the 2014/15 season.

We are currently the largest club in the south Wales Women's & Girls league with over 100 active players with ages from seven to full senior adults.

The club are now looking for a dedicated coach to manage our under-10 section for the new season. Previous coaching experience is desirable but not essential and coach education courses are funded by the club.

A driving licence and access to a car is essential given the nature of the role as games take place on a Sunday morning across the south Wales area.

Anyone interested in this excellent opportunity should email their contact details to: valegirlsfc@gmail.com or contact Gino Esposito on 07772 022435.

LW

Romilly in action

THE bowls season opened at Romilly Bowls Club on Saturday with both the club side and 'A' team having games against Barry Athletic and The Murch respectively.

The club side played the Athletic in a friendly at the Island which was played in good spirit and with the forecast rain holding off, a close game was won by Romilly by three shots, 62-59.

This match gave the opportunity for both sides to loosen their arms in readiness for this Saturday's opening games in the Carruthers Shield.

Romilly 'A' team were involved in a more serious fixture, facing the Murch at Romilly Park in a SVLA match. The game was won by the Murch 58-72, but the Murch, thinking the game was a friendly, played a number of first team players giving them the overall advantage, winning on three of the four racks.

This Saturday the Romilly club side entertain Kenfig Hill in the Carruthers Shield at The Park at 2.30pm, and the 'A' team travel to Llantwit Major for another SVLA match.

FP

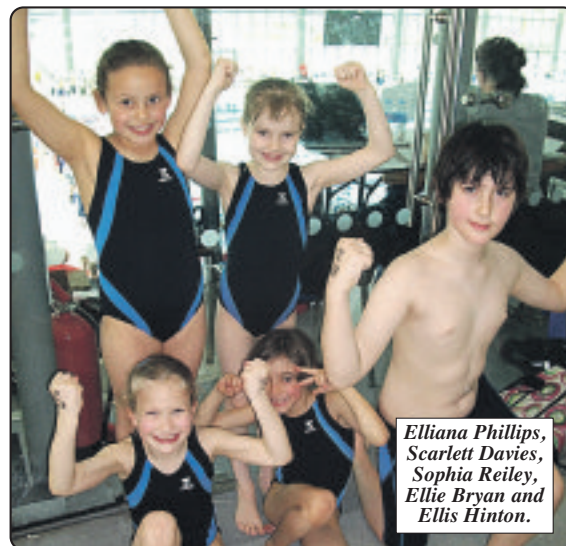
COMPETITION SUCCESS FOR RHOOSE LIFEGUARDS AS INDIVIDUALS SHINE



Nipper Girls!



*Emily Parker
and Kiera
Harris.*



*Elliana Phillips,
Scarlett Davies,
Sophia Reiley,
Ellie Bryan and
Ellis Hinton.*



*James Ashman and Jay
and Ben Cummings.*



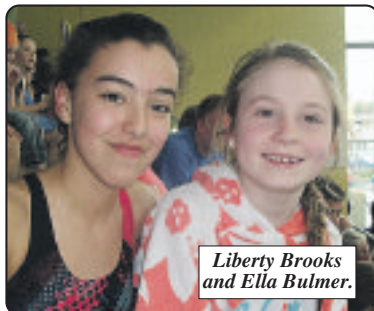
*Francesca
Hopkins and
Alex Moignard.*



The masters team.



*Medal Winners
Simon Parker
and Karen
O'Donoghue-
Harris.*



*Liberty Brooks
and Ella Bulmer.*



*Alice Connolly
and Evie Wong.*



*Members of the
Nippers girls
team.*



*Katie Simms and
Elena Gibson.*



*Sam Jenkins and
Jai Gerrish.*

FOLLOWING a successful series of competition dates at the Welsh Stillwaters earlier in the year, the end of March and early April saw the Nipper, Junior and Masters teams from Rhoose Lifeguards compete in the British Surf Lifesaving Stillwater Championships.

Competing against teams from across England and Wales, held over two consecutive weekends, this year the competition was held at Hengrove Park Centre, Bristol for the Masters and locally at Cardiff International Pool for the Nipper and Junior teams.

Masters team: The competition began with the Masters travelling to Bristol on March 29. With the competition held over the course of the Saturday it was a busy day with many competitors taking part in four individual races as well as relays and rope throw events.

The Masters team put in some fantastic individual performances with gold medals awarded to Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Sian Frith and Darron Corden.

The male team achieved second place and the female finished in third place. The Masters secured a rewarding overall second place out of the 16 clubs competing, matching individual medal winners: Karen O'Donoghue-Harris – silver Manikin Carry with Fins, gold Manikin Tow with Fins. Sian Frith – gold Obstacle Race, gold Manikin Carry, gold Manikin Carry with Fins, gold Manikin Tow with Fins. Richard Davidson – bronze Obstacle Race, bronze Rescue Medley. Simon Parker – bronze Manikin Carry with Fins, silver Rescue Medley. Steve Baker – bronze Manikin Carry, bronze Rescue Medley. Darron Corden – gold Obstacle Race, gold Manikin Carry, gold Manikin Carry with Fins, gold Rescue Medley.

Nipper team: Saturday, April 5 saw the turn of the Rhoose Nippers team to compete, this year at Cardiff International Pool.

The Nipper team are the youngest competitors of the club and after some 'first race nerves' the competition got off to a great start with all Nippers thoroughly enjoying the events.

Nearly all of the Nipper team had competed at the recent Welsh Championships and were keen to match or better their times from the previous competition.

With many of the age groups having between 40 and 60 competitors, spread over many heats, the Nippers achieved some very good positions and personal best times.

Special congratulations to Evie Wong who won bronze in the Flipper Race, silver in the Manikin Race and gold in the Board Race.

The Nippers achieved came away with an overall position of ninth place out of the 23 teams with the girls' category achieving a very respectable sixth position.

Junior team: Finally it was the turn of the Juniors to compete on Sunday, April 6, again at Cardiff International Pool, for what again was to be a packed day of events.

With co-ordinator Steve Baker away, team member Kathryn Gardner led the team of Juniors on the day.

As with the Nippers the previous day, many of the Juniors had a very high number of competitors in their races but secured some very confident places in the individual and relay events.

The Junior team would like to thank everyone who helped on the day with time keeping and other poolside duties.

The Junior team finished the day with an overall position of tenth out of the 24 clubs competing. Well done to the Junior team!

Overall teams: Nipper team: Ellie Bryan, Elliana Phillips, Scarlett Davies, Sophia Reiley, Lena Davies, Elena Gibson, Xantia Hobrough, Katie Sims, Moli Lyons, Evie Wong, Ella Bulmer, Eloise Strange, Yasmin Davies, Francesca Hopkins, Alice Connolly, Alex Moignard, Kiera Harris, Emily Parker, Brooke Peterson, Liberty Brooks, Helen Jenkins, Jay Cummings, Robert Grice, James Ashman, Cai Beasley, Ellis Hinton, Jamie Jenkins, Ben Cummings, Jai Gerrish, Sam Jenkins, Cian Davies, Taran Downton, Morgan Jenkins, Oliver Wong.

Junior team: Finn Rees Alex Parry, Jason Grice, Rhys Gardner, Ellie Peterson, Kelsea Peterson, Kathryn Gardner, Lauren Blake, Kirby Redrup, Maisie James, Emily Baker, Sara Phillips.

Masters team: Dominic Lee, Richard Davidson, Darron Corden, Steve Baker, Simon Parker, Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Sian Frith, Sarah Bryant.

Rhose Lifeguards Club would like to thank all of the parents and coaches who have given up their time at the competitions and training sessions over the winter months.

Thanks also to all of those from the club who regularly help with time keeping and other duties – we couldn't attend these competitions without you!

The GB Stillwater Championship brings a close to the indoor pool-based competitions for the club but very soon the beach and sea training and summer competitions get under way.

Next up is the Rhose Surf Ski Race which takes place at Font-y-Gary on Sunday, May 11 with racing starting at around noon onwards for all those who like to see some first class paddlers competing – further details can be found on the Rhose Lifeguards website www.rhooselifeguards.co.uk

RAINBOW RUN IS A RIOT OF COLOUR (AND NO LITTLE STYLE!) ON CONEY BEACH

A SEA of colour filled Coney Beach in Porthcawl for Tŷ Hafan's first 5K Rainbow Run on Sunday, April 27.

More than 1,000 participants were showered in pink, yellow, orange and blue powdered paint for the run – the first event of its kind in Wales.

The Rainbow Run, which is based on the Indian Holi festival of colour, is expected to raise more than £50,000 for Tŷ Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

Angelo Pucella, from Bridgend, who took part with his son Luca and his wife Beth, said: "It has been such a fantastic day. Luca was so excited and he absolutely loved it. It was great to see so many people taking part to raise funds for Tŷ Hafan."

Luca (7) is the only person in Wales to suffer from ROHHAD (Rapid-onset Obesity with Hypothalamic dysfunction, Hypoventilation and Autonomic Dysregulation) syndrome and was referred to Tŷ Hafan in 2010.

"Tŷ Hafan has been fantastic and we're so grateful for their support. I'll be taking part in Tŷ Hafan's Three Peaks Challenge next. We try and do everything we can as a family to show our appreciation and give something back to Tŷ Hafan," said Angelo.

Mair Jeffreys, event organiser at Tŷ Hafan, said: "The Rainbow Run is about celebration, having fun with friends and raising a smile for Tŷ Hafan. It was wonderful to see so many Tŷ Hafan families, staff and supporters taking part today. Due to the success of the event, we are already planning our next Rainbow Run in west Wales."

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part, not forgetting our amazing volunteers and sponsors who have made the day possible."

Council considers new primary school for Dinas Powys

THE Vale Council will begin consultation in June to create a new primary school for Dinas Powys by merging Dinas Powys Infants School and Murch Junior School.

The move would see Murch Junior School discontinued, and a new single phase primary school instated across the two sites under a single Governing Body and headteacher.

The proposal has been prompted by the Murch Junior School headteacher's decision to retire at the end of this academic year.

Cllr Chris Elmore, cabinet member for Children's Services, said: "Moving from separate infant and junior schools to a single phase primary school brings a number of benefits for school pupils. One of the main reasons for the move to primary schools over the past 30 years has been the smoother transition for pupils moving from the infant to junior phase."

"While I would never have wanted to lose a member of staff of Derek Thomas' calibre, his decision to retire has presented us with the opportunity merge these two good schools and improve the educational opportunities for all of their pupils."

Choral coffee morning

ON Saturday, May 10 from 10am, Barry Choral Society is holding a coffee morning at 58 Kingsland Crescent, Barry (town centre).

Entrance is £2 and includes coffee or tea and cake/biscuits. On sale will be cakes, plants and books, as well as a 'White Elephant' stall. There will also be a grand raffle. Everyone welcome.

Call Sheila on 01446 748724, or Helen on 029 2053 1359. Rehearsals every Wednesday at Crossways Church, Barry, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

RNLI safety awareness

A safety awareness will take place on the Promenade at Whitmore Bay on Monday, May 5 from 10.30am-4.00pm

Education volunteers will be on hand to give sea safety advice and hand out literature to families and individuals.

RNLI goods will be on sale and donations will be very gratefully received from anyone who would like to support the lifesaving work of the Barry Dock lifeboat station

The RNLI roadshow trailer will be present as will a D class lifeboat. Young people are invited to dress in a replica lifeboat kit and pose for photos by the boat!



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MALCOLM NUGENT



31 BARRY BEAVERS IN THE SWIM AT PARKWOOD AND 23 IN CARMARTHEN!

BARRY Beavers held their gala on April 5 when seven Welsh regional clubs attended; Barry had 31 swimmers competing.

They were pipped at the post by one point, with Rhondda Polar Bears taking first place.

MEDAL WINNERS WERE:

Girls' 25 metres – Lucy Lynch, silver; ladies' – Helen Lynch, silver; men's – John Evans, silver.

Girls' 50 metres – Efon Jones, silver; boys' – Jesse

Rodgers, silver; ladies' – Tracey Marchant, silver.

Girls' 100 metres: Layla Rogers, silver.

Junior Relay – Tyler/Jesse/Courtney/Layla, silver.

Boys' 25 metres – Jack Kemp, bronze (first gala).

Girls' 50 metres – Courtney Rogers, bronze;

men's – Matthew Lack, bronze.

Ladies' 100 metres – Sarah Davies, bronze;

men's – Nicholas Cushen, bronze.

All the other swimmers who took part improved their times. Natasha Lynch, Katie Dodds, Mia Sullivan, Abigail Fuch, Callum Savory, Shannon Rogers, Suzanne Haslam, Philip Daly, Talisha Rogers, Tyler Savory, Louis Davies, Sophie Woodham, Richard Field, Gareth Lloyd, Rob Lynch, Kyle Siirak, Heather William, Mark Eveleigh, James Jones. Everyone did really well for the first gala of the year.

A big thankyou to our patrons: Howard and Carole Hamilton; Clive and Sue of SDL Pneumatics Ltd, Newport; Pete, who does the photos; Alun Cairns, MP; Vicky (from Waitrose), and Tim Chapman from The GEM. We also would like to thank all the helpers and Julie Doble for the catering.

We are looking for sponsors who could help us, please. Our gala cost £1,625 to put on this year. We made £327 in raffle ticket sales. We are also desperate for new tee-shirts for gala swimmers and officials, 40 in all. We would have sponsors' names printed on the back of the tee-shirts: is there anyone who could help?

Contact Patricia Finch on 07517121729, or on patriciafinch@sky.com.

Beavers second in Carmarthen

BARRY travelled to Carmarthen Leisure Centre to compete against seven Welsh clubs on Saturday, April 12. Barry managed to come second overall again this week, but we only had 23 swimmers there. The medal winners were:

Girls' 25 metres – Abigail Finch, gold.

Girls' 50 metres – Talisha Rogers, gold.

Girls' 100 metres – Layla Rogers, gold; ladies' – Sarah Davies, gold.

Ladies' 25 metres – Shannon Rogers, silver.

Boys' 50 metres – Tyler Savory, silver; men's – Matthew Lack, bronze.

Junior relay – Talish/Tyler/Courtney/Layla, bronze.

All the other swimmers who improved their times were Callum Savory, Jack Kemp, Suzanne Haslam, Philip Daly, John Evans, Courtney Rogers, Louis Davies, Tracey Marchant, Richard Field, Gareth Lloyd, Kyle Siirak, Heather William, Nicholas Cushen, Mark Eveleigh.

Also two of our helpers, Chris Economides and Catherine Jones entered into the Helper Race: 50 metres each holding a blow-up Killer whale, which they had to keep attached to!

It was a good day in Carmarthen and we now look forward to May 10 – off to Tredegar! PF



CUP FINAL WAS JUST CHAMPION!

THE under-16s Vale of Glamorgan Cup final took place on Wednesday, April 9 between this year's league champions (Llantwit Major) and last year's league winners Porthkerry Panthers.

The game between these two fierce rivals got under way with Llantwit Major dominating the early exchanges. Gabriel Orem flew down the right flank and put in a fantastic cross/shot that somehow found the back of the net to put Llantwit one up.

Ross Adams took an early blow to the head requiring seven stitches, which forced him off early and he was replaced by Vas for his first taste of a Jenner Park final.

Llantwit Major continued to dominate large periods of the first half, fighting for every ball while giving the Panthers no time on the ball. The Panthers were relying on Kieran Allen's delivery from set pieces and long throws as their only weapon and neither

LLANTWIT MAJOR 2 PORKERRY PANTHERS 3

'keeper was forced into action much during the first half, mainly down to some good defending by Thomas Jones, James Jones and James Scott.

After choice words with the Panthers at half time, they took the field with renewed determination; they were now playing football and were competing for every ball.

Llantwit, however, had the first opening of the second half and a tame shot went straight to Ben Dwyer when one on one. The Panthers were now on top, Frazer James and Lloyd James were starting to run the midfield and gaps were beginning to open up for the front two.

The always reliable James Scott was pushed into midfield and Harry Lambert pushed up front, with just three at the back now. Scottie won a crucial tackle and fed Vas, who beat two players and let fly a 20-yard screamer that the

'keeper did well to push onto the bar, only for Harry Lambert to return the rebound into the Llantwit net to equalise for the Panthers.

Harry Lambert was causing problems with his energy up top and he won a throw-in deep in the Llantwit half. A long Kieran Allen throw found Kieran Miller at the back post, who managed to turn and volley home what looked to be a stunning winner.

The never say die attitude from Llantwit meant they were not going to give in and with a minute to play, a great run down the right flank resulted in an equaliser from close range to take this game into extra time.

The Panthers continued to dominate the extra time period and with tired legs they continued to pour forward. With minutes remaining, Lloyd James broke free and showed some electrifying pace,

his fierce shot destined for the bottom corner was somehow saved by the Llantwit 'keeper.

From the resulting corner, the ball found its way back to Kieran Allen whose inch-perfect cross deceived everyone and found its way into the net. Mayhem arose, Jordan came on, subs got booked, formations changed and still five minutes to go.

Kyle Henderson was forced off with cramp due to the work he had put in and Mikey Margetts' first contribution was to make a great sliding tackle. Neal Campell took the pressure off with a number of surging runs and eventually the final whistle blew.

Kieran Miller lifted the Cup with a tribute to Ross Adams.

Congratulations must go to Llantwit for their league championship and good luck to them in the forthcoming South Wales Cup Final. Once again, the young referee, plus assistants, were excellent in their handling of the game.

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Renewable heating for council homes

THE Vale Council has entered into a contract with a local company to install renewable heating at a number of its council homes this spring.

The homes are off the main gas grid and are classed as 'hard to treat' because they are expensive to improve and are extremely costly to heat for the families living in them.

Six homes in the rural Vale will have ground source heat pumps and solar water heating installed as part of the project. Homes in Llandow

and Marcross were chosen due to their suitable locations, the families' enthusiasm for the innovative heating improvements and the current poor heating systems.

Coun Bronwen Brooks said: "I am delighted that we are using innovative technology in our tenants' homes to help them to drive down their heating costs."

"Too many people live in fuel poverty and I am committed to finding ways to tackle this in the Vale."

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Cavatina concert

CAVATINA Singers, Penarth, celebrate 30 years of making music on Saturday, May 17, at 7.30pm in All Saints' Church, Victoria Square, Penarth.

To mark its anniversary, the choir will perform a new, specially commissioned piece for SATB chorus and piano - 'A Life in a Day' by Penarth based composer, Ian Lawson.

The programme will also include John Rutter's 'The Sprig of Thyme', a cycle of folk-song settings as well as pieces by Elgar, Mansel Thomas, Frank Ticheli and Thomas Morely. Tickets, £8, include a complimentary drink and canapés.

Tickets can be bought on the night or from Foxy's Deli, Penarth. Find out more about Cavatina Singers on www.cavatinasingers.org.uk.

Advice surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding a surgery on Friday, May 2, at Morrisons Supermarket, Barry, between 1pm and 2pm. No appointment is necessary.

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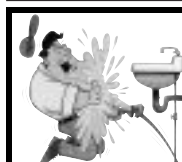
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RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN
LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS
ADRAN 119 DEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS 5
LARNOG)
GORCHYMYN AILGYFEIRIO LLWYBR
CYHOEDDUS 2014



NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION
OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
SECTION 119 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH
NO.5 LAVERNOCK)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION
ORDER 2014

Ar 15 Ebrill 2014, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod.
Effaith y Gorchymyn fel y'i cadarnhawyd fydd ailgyfeirio'r llwybr troed cyhoeddus yn y modd a welir yn yr Atodlen ac ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn, i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos yn y cyfeiriad isod, rhwng 9:00am a 4:00pm o 1 Mai 2014 hyd 12 Mehefin 2014. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 1 Mai 2014. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam, yn dymuno holl ynghylch dilyswydd y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth ynddo, am nad yw o fewn pwerau Deddf Prifffyrdd, ynteu na chydymfurfirwyd â gofynion y Ddeddf neu reoliadau a wnaed o dani wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, caiff yr unigolyn hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys o dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf drwy weithrediad paragraph 5 Atodlen 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos o 1 Mai 2014.

Dyddiedig 1 Mai 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu,
Swyddfeidd y Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri,
CF63 4RT

On the 15th April 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order.
The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert part of the public footpath as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 1st May 2014 until 12th June 2014. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 1st May 2014, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 1st May 2014 make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 1st May 2014

Director of Development Services
Dock Offices, Subway Road, Barry,
CF63 4RT

RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN
DEDDF PRIFYRDD 1980
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS
18 Y BARRI)
GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR
CYHOEDDUS 2014



NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH
NO 18 BARRY)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION
ORDER 2014

Bydd y gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd ar 15 Ebrill 2014, o dan Adran 119 Deddf Prifffyrdd 1980, yn ailgyfeirio rhan o Llwybr Troed Cyhoeddus 18 Y Barri, sy'n rhedeg o GGC 311097 169429 hyd at GGC 311452 169451 drwy ei ailosod ar linell sy'n rhedeg o GGC 311097 169429 hyd at GGC 311452 169451, fel y'i dangosir ar fap y gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r gorchymyn a'r map wedi'u gosod, a chewch eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Cewch brynu copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Cewch wneud sylwadau ar y Gorchymyn neu'i wrthwynebu drwy anfon llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT erbyn 29 Mai 2014, a dylech nodi eich rhesymau dros ymateb.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law, neu os caiff y rhai a dderbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rhydd i gadarnhau bod y Gorchymyn yn ddwrthwynebiad. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau nas tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr un pryd.

Dyddiedig 1 Mai 2014

The above order, made on the 15th day of April 2014, under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert part of the Public Footpath No 18 Barry running from NGR 311097 169429 to NGR 311452 169451 to a line running from NGR 311097 169429 to NGR 311452 169451 as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 29th day of May 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 1st day of May 2014

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The application is to vary

the licence.

Any person wishing to

make representations to

this application may do

so in writing to the

Licensing Department,

Vale of Glamorgan

Council, Holton

Road, Barry CF63 4RU,

not later than 28 days

after the date of this

notice. Representations

received after this date

will not be considered. A

copy of the application

can be viewed at the

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It is an offence knowingly

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Family Notices

LLEWELLYN

Mary

Peacefully on Tuesday April 22 at Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend, Mary of Great House Farm, Penlyne, beloved wife of the late Peter, devoted mother of Christine, David and Rob, mother-in-law of Robert, Talina and Tina, loving grandmother of Rhianon, Huw, Rhys, William, Tom and the late Claire, and great grandmother of Oliver and Mali.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Friday May 9, service 1.30pm at Penlyne Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend at 2.45pm.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Ward 2 Stroke Unit, Princess of Wales Hospital c/o J James, 11 Fommon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

Birthdays

JOE BAKER

Happy 14th Birthday
on 5th May

Lots of love from
your biggest fans
Mum, Dad, Abi
& all the family
xxx

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY • HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY

Megan Osborne

Happy
18th
Birthday Meg
(6th May)

All our love
Mum, Dad & Grace
xxx

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY • HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY

ABIGAIL MAKER

Happy 1st Birthday!

Abigail 3rd May

Lots of love,
Nanny Lyn,
Gramps and big
brother Jayden
xxxx

Family Notices

NORMAN

Don

On Wednesday, 23rd April, Don, dearest husband of Barbara and a treasured father, grandpa, brother and friend.

Resting at Southfields Funeral Home until the service at St John the Baptist Newton Church, Porthcawl on Wednesday, 7th May at 12 noon, followed by interment at Porthcawl Cemetery at 12.45pm. Family flowers only please, by request. For further enquiries contact Evan E Thomas & Sons, Southlands, South Road, Porthcawl, CF36 3DA. Telephone 01656 783383.

DAY

Henry Alfred - 'Harry'

Sadly passed away at Bella Vista Nursing Home on April 26, 2014, aged 88 years. Dear father to Clive, Sheila, Julia and Beverly. Loving grandfather and great grandfather, and dearest friend to Marge.

Harry will be missed by all his family and friends he loved.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, until his funeral service at Barry Cemetery chapel on Friday May 9 at 12pm, followed by interment at 12.30pm in the cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral directors or donations may be made at the service in memory of Harry to the Stroke Association.

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GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA...

Poor response to community cabinet

THE success of the community meetings held by Alun Cairns MP, at the end of last year, demonstrates that many people are interested in local affairs and are eager to attend public meetings.

So it is clear that when this week's Vale Council community cabinet meeting, held in St Athan on Monday at 6pm, attracted no members of the public (except me), something is wrong with how the council engages with the public.

The community cabinet meeting in St Athan was abandoned after 30 minutes, rewarding the cabinet for their failure by allowing them home 90 minutes early – whilst the public picked up the costs

associated with the meeting.

The council generally doesn't advertise these community meetings on its website, on social media, on notice boards or in the local press, with a few exceptions such as last month's meeting in Penarth.

I have attended meetings in Cowbridge and Barry, where just six people turned up to question the cabinet. Interestingly, one of the best attended meetings was in Peterston-Super-Ely at 2pm, when the local community council seized the initiative and promoted the event in their community – and word reached groups in Barry who also attended.

The community cabinet meetings are held, according to the council's website, due to a "vow to make local decision-making more transparent and inclusive." It would seem that the cabinet has failed to achieve its goal.

I knew about the St Athan meeting because I proactively asked the right question of someone who knew about this "secret" community cabinet meeting...

Ian Perry, St Nicholas.

Volunteers and the libraries...

IT is with great dismay that I heard about possible library closures in our area – I hope this is not true.

Also libraries that remain will be run by volunteers. How can this be? I have worked in the library service and had to produce qualifications to secure a post and also attend expensive courses, such as the ECDL, at the behest of management.

The banks had problems due to mismanagement. Is this what has happened to libraries who have had a lot of expensive equipment installed in the last few years?

Will managers be affected at all, or will they remain in post? Their job is to manage, which means to control and administer correctly.

Thousands of pounds have been spent on the Mayor's parlour, and chairs costing hundreds of pounds each for the councillors to sit on seem an inordinate waste, as few members of the public ever see them.

The library is the centre for knowledge and a meeting place socially for the public who, after all, pay rates in large sums for that privilege.

I have grandchildren struggling to achieve qualifications.

Should I tell them not to bother, as volunteers seem to be the solution to money problems – and it may happen next in schools and hospitals?

I accept the lack of black bin bags, but I do not accept the absence of my library as I know it. L Gatt, Barry.

Let councillors take the lead!

THERE is talk that the Vale Council is proposing staff in four libraries in the Vale be reduced and then volunteers are to run these libraries on a reduced basis.

I challenge the council to lead from the front and for four councillors to volunteer their services, with no recompense from the

council.

They must publicly show that over a six-month period they operated as full councillors and drew no money from the council.

In other words, they have volunteered! Do this and prove to the people who elect you that you are prepared to operate as you ask others to do. I await your response.

Charles Ian Allen, Boverton.

Arthritis support

AGE CONNECT Cardiff & Vale are holding a support session at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, where professional advice will be available from Arthritis Care in Wales, on May 6 (from 10am-12noon)

This will include information on support services for those with this condition, and what other help is available, both practical and emotional.

Call 01446 732385 for further information.

More growth in Wales?

IREFER to Jane Hutt's GEM article on April 24 – 'More growth in Wales than rest of UK'.

How can she claim such success with employment after Labour's First Minister was caught using dodgy statistics to back up his claim that youth unemployment in Wales is the lowest of all UK nations?

Especially when the most authoritative data from the International Labour Organisation shows Wales has the highest unemployment in the UK!

This is in spite of the

four billion pounds worth of European funding that has been channelled into the Welsh economy since 2000, specifically to west Wales and the Valleys; and what good has it done, when 15 Welsh authorities still qualify for convergence (EU charity) funding?

And guess what? Labour's about to throw another two billion pounds into yet more job creation schemes.

Meanwhile, we don't even have decent bus services outside of Cardiff.

Gordon Wilkie, Llantwit Major (Conservative).



Sponsor Tosh Taylor with Dan Jarvis, captain Mike King, winner Clive Edwards and Tim Jarvis.

Clive triumphs at golf meeting

The monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Golf Society was held last Thursday, April 24, at Cardiff Golf Club - with 30 competitors all attempting to win the Vale's own version of the famous 'Walker Cup' supplied and sponsored by Cowbridge based solicitors Gaskell & Walker Ltd.

The tree-lined fairways that are a feature at this prestigious club, proved quite a hazard, with many hard-luck stories being shared later in the clubhouse.

Difficult pin positions and wet conditions underfoot also contributed to the low scores being returned with a few members even considering disposing of their clubs via e-bay!

However, credit must be given to Colwinston farmer and Dragon boat racer Clive Edwards who overcame such distractions to return a winning score of 30

stableford points to collect first prize from

generous sponsor Mr Anthony Taylor.

A superior back nine by Dan Jarvis proved crucial enabling him to claim the runner up position from his father Tim both finishing with 29 points. Clive Thomas with 28 points finished fourth.

Overseas visitor Chris Premock, a resident of Sudbury near Boston, USA, and the son-in-law of society member John and Andrea Caines, enjoyed his final day in the UK to return the highest score of the day to win the guest section with 31 points.

Nearest the pin on the 'Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant' sponsored par 3 holes were Richard Jones, Julian Kelly, Dan Jarvis, Tosh Taylor, Tim Jarvis and Griff Morgan while Martin Edwards collected the 'Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored prize for hitting the longest drive on the selected hole.

Godfrey Lewis correctly guessed 29 balls would fail to make the journey home to collect the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whiskey resulting in £90 being shared between Velindre Hospital and The Alzheimer's Society

adding to the magnificent sum of £3,000 raised by Tosh Taylor's daughter Catherine who recently competed in the London marathon.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 29, at the Grove Golf Club when members will be playing their annual medal competition for the Shrieval Trophy, sponsored by Mr Mark Rees and family.

A reminder to golfers reading this column that it is not too late to enter the Kelly & Harris charity golf day in aid of Velindre hospital scheduled for Friday, May 16, at the Grove Golf Club. Further details can be obtained from event organiser Mrs Pam Harris on 01446 772057.

Nipper Jewell Knock Out competition 2nd round: Chris Rooney v David Williams; Godfrey Lewis v Keith Davies; Mike King v Mike Lee; Mark Rees v Griff Morgan; Keith James v Neil McLean; Martin David v Geraint Davies; Gareth Perkins v Glyn Watts-Jones; Bryan Owen v Dan Jarvis. Matches to be played by Thursday, May 29.

TMCC

Dutch rugby team highlights June Armed Forces Day

THE Dutch visiting side from s-Hertogenbosch proved emphatic winners over Army Reserve (Wales) in what could become an annual rugby event.

The Dutch side was handicapped by losing no less than 10 players called for duty with their national side, but even so managed an 18-11 victory over the fledgling Army Reserve side.

The game, billed as the opener to the run-up to Armed Forces Day Wales on June 28 was played at Cowbridge between two teams mindful of the significant historic implications of the meeting.

"It is important that we keep the remembrance," said Dutch team organiser Maikel Weyes, who is also a committee member of the Society of October 1944, responsible for the city's commemorations.

"This game was suggested by the Armed Forces Day organisers and of course we had to accept. Hopefully next year, a team will come out to us

from Wales and we will keep the connection going."

In 1944, 70 years ago, the largely Territorial 53rd Welsh Division liberated s-Hertogenbosch with a loss of over 146 lives.

The Dutch city has never forgotten, and each year celebrates its liberation. But 70 years on, the number of veterans still alive has dwindled and reluctantly the city has decided that this year will be the last big commemoration.

In June, the mayor of s-Hertogenbosch will lead an 80-strong band and 100-strong choir, as well as a group of some 22 cyclists, who will cycle from s-Hertogenbosch to Wales carrying with them a Davy lamp that will have been lit from the eternal flame at the local British War Cemetery (where those killed in liberating the city are buried) to take part in Armed Forces Day in Cardiff.

Doug McArthur

Local pioneers are giving an American sport Welsh flavour!



Back row (left to right): Peter Butler; Ben Phillips; Lee McCabe; Jon Creighton-Griffiths; James Hayes; Charlie Hopkin; Martin Swift; Rhys Jones; Marc Longworth; James Malatynski; Oceanne Esparcieux; Oon Robbins. Front row: Cliff Osbourne; Marcus Jenkins; James Clarke; Luke Ashton; Chris Smith; Luke Mainwaring; Meredith (the Teuan man); Sam Clements. Photograph by Pete Florey of MDP Images.

A LLANTWIT MAJOR man is captaining south Wales' only male roller derby team, and says the sport is making great progress now after three hard years getting it off the ground.

In fact, the south Wales men made up a large part of the team when Wales recently competed at the first men's Roller Derby World Cup, held in Birmingham in March. A total of 15 teams competed from all over the world, with skaters coming from the USA, Japan, Canada, Argentina, Australia and all over Europe, with Wales attending as the smallest nation.

Charlie Hopkin, the captain, a local lad from Llantwit Major, has been working to establish a south Wales team (called SWS - the South Wales Silures).

The majority of the squad is local, and they train in Cogan Leisure Centre.

Charlie said: "The boys fought hard for their country to make their mark on the inaugural tournament. They were sixth, narrowly missing out on fifth place to Australia by one point in a nail biting finish."

The GEM asked if getting a quintessentially American sport off the ground in the UK was difficult, and Charlie said: "Most people pull a funny face and ask about the James Caan film *Rollerball* whenever the sport roller derby is mentioned."

"Despite a continued growth in popularity throughout Wales and the rest of the UK, the sport is largely unheard of."

"For those that have experienced it first hand though, it is obvious that roller derby is here to stay."



ABOVE and BELOW: The Welsh team in action. Photographs by John Hesse.

"Its fast-paced and hard-hitting nature draws the attention of most who have attended a game."

He continued: "These days, the sport has developed into a complicated but fun melee of 'blockers' (whos role is self explanatory) and 'jammers' (the less obviously named point scorers) whizzing about a flat oval track competing to score points by passing opponents."

"The jammers are the only players eligible to score, and they do so by passing opposing players, there is one jammer on track for each team during the two-minute 'jams'."

"The remaining four blockers of each team must try and help their jammer through the defence of the opposition's pack, while simultaneously trying to block the opposing Jammer."

He continued: "This addictive, high octane sport has been pioneered in south Wales by a dedicated group of ladies who call themselves the Tiger Bay Brawlers."

"During the early days of their rise to become one of the top seeded competing teams in Europe, the brawlers recruited and trained a handful of guys to help



out refereeing their games.

"After realising how much fun the ladies were having, it wasn't long before there were talks of starting our very own team."

Charlie conceded: "It is a tough job trying to recruit guys for a roller derby team when nobody has heard of the sport; it is primarily played by women."

"It seemed like an impossible task at

times, but after three years (give or take) of perseverance, empty sessions, last minute hall bookings, chalked tracks and lots of sweat, the south Wales derby scene is looking strong."

"Its first men's roller derby team SWS (Welsh for kiss) - The South Wales Silures, now has upwards of 20 regular members, and recently contributed a large portion of the Welsh team who took

part in the inaugural roller derby world cup in Birmingham in March."

All games are archived online at www.MRDWC.com.

For more information, contact the Silures via their Facebook page, or come along for a chat at one of their training sessions at Cogan Leisure Centre every Sunday between 12noon and 2pm.

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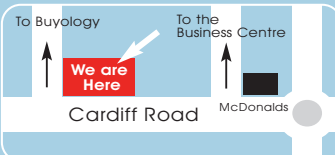
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Joseph ready to face off against 'The Warriors'!

A local Tae Kwon Do champion has been selected for the TAGB (Tae Kwon Do Association of GB) team that will face 'The Warriors' in an exclusive Clash of the Titans event.

The competition will be fast and fierce as the two teams compete against each other in Huddersfield shortly. Current Taekwondo Open World Champion, Joseph Schembri of Vale-based JSTKD Martial Arts and Fitness, was chosen based on his extensive experience and expertise.

He will be joined by fellow Welshmen Carl Betty who is the European Champion, World Lightweight Champion Matthew Jackson and national title holder John Clegg. The TAGB team is handpicked from fighters throughout the whole of Britain so their selection gives Wales a strong

presence within the team of twelve.

The event organisers, Martial Arts Illustrated, the UK's top selling martial arts magazine, chooses their opponents, the 'Warriors'.

These are a select group of martial artists from around the world, covering many disciplines including kickboxing, karate and kung fu.

The TAGB and the Warriors will commence battle this weekend in this no holds barred competition, with the team scoring the most points being victorious. Joseph said: "I am excited to be fighting in this prestigious event especially as there is a history of intense competition between the two teams."

"This year's clash looks set to be no exception to what is always a hard-fought contest".

Anyone wishing to try out this sport should visit jstkd.co.uk for

details of classes throughout Barry and the Vale, with specific programmes available for ages three years through to adults. VW



Joseph Schembri.

Public gets sporting chance!

A TOTAL of 81 local sports clubs and organisations were awarded funding totalling £92,220.89 in the past year – thanks to the Community Chest scheme.

The scheme is a Sports Wales initiative, managed locally by the Vale Council's Sports and Play Development Team.

It offers start-up grants of up to

£1,500 for community sport and activities that encourage more people to be more active, more often, and raise the standard of existing activities.

The 81 awards covered 30 sports and physical activity opportunities including rugby, archery, golf, cricket, sailing, rowing, gymnastics and netball.

The funding was used for areas such as initial venue hire, purchase of equipment, and coaching costs.

If your club or organisation has a proposal for a new project to develop more sports opportunities, contact Karen Davies, the Vale of Glamorgan Council Sports and Play Development Manager on 01446 704793, to discuss your proposal further.

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Brynhill golf latest

Latest Brynhill golf club competition results are as follows: The Barry & District News Cup, four-week eclectic – Winners, Ian Clemo and Glyn Morris, 57 (back nine, 28); runners-up – Julian Hopkins and Richard Pierce, 57 (back nine, 29).

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Bonus point win for Barry RFC in 'arctic' conditions

THE end of April saw arctic weather conditions prevail at Tonyrefail last Saturday.

Barry may have been some distance ahead of the hosts in the league but play generally did not reflect this difference in position.

The visitors played with the elements in the first session and were soon on the attack.

Their reward was an early lead with a penalty struck by E.Scott.

Tonyrefail declared their intentions with some strong three-quarter play, which kept the Barry defence on their toes.

Play moved from one end of the pitch to the other. It was during one of Barry's forays that they scored a well-

engineered try, with wing O'Sullivan gathering an astute chip kick over the defence to cross wide out.

The home team came back into the game with a penalty awarded when the visiting backs encroached in front of the rear foot at a lineout.

This fault was recognised and penalised at regular intervals through the match!

The pendulum swung the other way and Evans crossed for short-range try in the corner. Scott just failed with the conversion when the ball struck a post high up and rebounded in-field.

On the left wing Hammonda was giving the Tonyrefail defence a headache with his aggressive running. This helped set up field position for the try of the

season by the visitors.

The pack set up quick possession from a line-out, Gallivan fed Scott who picked out O'Sullivan running an excellent angle to split the home defence and cross near the posts. The conversion was a formality.

Soon afterwards a home forward saw both red mist and a red card for an off-the-ball infringement. A Scott penalty rounded off the first half scoring.

The half was a strange mixture of Tonyrefail having the majority of possession and territory but Barry scoring whenever they came within striking distance of the home line.

The hosts started the second period by setting up camp on the Barry line. They forced penalty

after penalty and elected to kick to the corner each time.

Tonyrefail appeared to be very low in confidence and only made half-hearted attempts at forcing a pushover.

Barry did nothing to help themselves with several off-side penalties being conceded. The home side did eventually get meagre reward for their efforts when they slotted over a short-range penalty.

Against the run of play Ritchie O'Sullivan hacked a loose ball up-field, deftly regathered racing sixty metres to cross for his third try; this gave Barry the deserved bonus point.

During the remainder of the match the Barry

defence was tested to the full. In this period, Tanner, Evans and Pooley tackled and covered well.

Two late yellow cards for technical infringements against Barry did not affect the outcome as Barry ran out 30-6 winners.

Barry: Ryan, Hammonda, Busitil, Ritchie O'Sullivan, Luke O'Sullivan, E.Scott, Gallivan, Rhys O'Sullivan, Evans, Hollister, Oaten, Tanner, C.Scott, Poole, Jones. Replacements: G.Jones, Lundy, Adams, Mephem. The season concludes with two re-arranged home fixtures, Nantymoel on Saturday, May 3 and Tonyrefail on Wednesday, May 7.

CO

BRYNHILL LADIES HELP OUT HYWEL



Carol Bumford (lady captain), Jane Phillips, Hywel and Maria Gentile.

The ladies of Brynhill teed off on April 24 to assist Hywel Davies with the costs of his new electric chair.

It enables him to stand vertically – never before has he been able to do this, and use his arms and hands more efficiently.

Hywel demonstrated his new chair for us, he says it does everything but make him toast in the morning!

Hywel is in his third year as a law student at University of South Wales. Maria organized the morning, ably

assisted by Carol Bumford, Pam Melvin and many club members. The courtesy of the course was given so the whole sum of £1,400 was given to Hywel for the chair.

Visitor winners were Gillie Bennett, 21 points over the back nine from Rita Horn, both from Glamorgan Golf Club.

Brynhill winner was Jane Phillips, 24 points; runners-up Sam Pascoe, 23 points, over the back nine from Chris Hopkins.

CH

Rain stops play for Sully Centurions

SULLY Centurions Cricket Club's much anticipated opening match at local rivals Barry Athletic was ended by rain, after Centurions looked to be heading for a huge defeat.

Having won the toss, skipper Lloyd Bruce put Barry in to bat in overcast conditions. The opening pair of Dave Goodway and Steve Provis proceeded to put the visiting attack to the sword with both registering half centuries.

When Goodway was eventually bowled by Adam Sylvester for 86, the score was already on 162. Provis and Rhett Jones put on another 21 before Adam struck again, bowling Jones for 2.

Ash Patel had Provis caught by Tom Davies for a fine 85 with the score on 193. A 37 run fourth wicket partnership between Baker and Brock came to an end when Baker was bowled by Patel for 15. Brock departed lbw to Nick Jones on 15 with no further score on the board.

The only other wicket to fall was that of Aaron Smith for 10, this time bowled by Jones, with the scoreboard showing 244. Ellis (6 not out) and

Buckland (10 not out) took the home side to a final total of 262/6 at the end of the 50 overs.

After tea Centurions' innings got off to a disastrous start with Quasi Ferdouz being out second ball to Athletic skipper John Gee. It was downhill all the way after this with wickets falling regularly – and at one stage the score was 27/8, with John Gee taking a magnificent 6 for 25 off his ten overs.

Although it was a lost cause, Jake Griffith and Adam Sylvester salvaged some pride by putting on 49 for the 9th wicket, when Adam was bowled by Jones for 10. Griffith was on 33 and the score 89/9 when play was stopped because of the rain.

Much to Centurions' relief and Barry's frustration, no more play was possible as the umpires called it a day. **The Second XI hosted the reverse fixture at Burnham Avenue and it was a similar story.**

Barry batted first and in spite of losing Hugh Smith on 28 they compiled a big total – Murphy's 105 and a half century for Davies were the undoubted highlights of the innings.

Centurions' mostly young bowlers kept at their task, though, and were rewarded with 7 wickets – 3 for Nathan

Cuddihy, 2 for Reece Bennett and one each for Emma Davies and Tom Pascoe. However the Athletic's total of 273/7 was a formidable one.

The Sully innings was only two overs old and already the opening three batsmen were back in the hutch with no score on the board.

The home side were never going to recover from this start and more wickets fell cheaply. Only Joe Hayer (20) and Nathan Cuddihy with 53, his first half century, were able to get going.

Frost (3/18) and Baker (2/14) were the pick of the Barry attack. The home score stood at 99/8 when the rain got too bad to stay on the field.

That's how the game ended and, like the first eleven, Centurions were the happier of the teams as play was finally abandoned.

Sully Centurions 99/8, Barry Athletic 273/7.

So, an opening day that ended with both Sully sides thanking the elements for rescuing them. The number of young players in both the 1sts and 2nds will be good for the future of the club, but in the short term, the rebuilding process will no doubt be punctuated by days like this.

MF

Bombettes in Cup progress

BARRY Bombettes welcomed Croesyceiliog for their quarter-final make or break showdown.

The Barry pack had the upper hand from the first to last scrum and used this to their advantage. The back row of Davies, No8 Yapp and Young tackled anything that moved and were powerful in attack.

The front five of Cahill, Phillips and Richards were supported by the unsung heroines in the second row of Coleman and Helmore.

Young was the stand out forward though sniping around the fringes, spoiling ball for the Croesy No9 and making a few telling breaks.

After good work by the back row, Day-Smith collected the ball deep in the Barry half; she off loaded to Perry who set off on an arcing run from outside her 10m to sprint in for her first try; the conversion was missed.

Croesy came back with renewed vigour and camped in the home 22, and just when the danger seemed to have passed the No 9 sniped down the blind side for a soft try (which went uncontested).

Croesy were on getting on top and pressurising, but Yapp put her body on line forcing a knock on with the home try line begging. With their

renewed confidence and new partnerships with Perry at No 13 and Bannister at No14, they put the ball through the hands, resulting in K Jones powering over to make it 10-5.

In the second half Barry intelligently started using their kicking game Perry touched her second try. Then, following a text book line out, Shanahan fed her backs and after slick passing Perry powered over on the left again.

Croesy rallied and to their credit managed a second try, converted, which made it 20-12.

Any thoughts of a shock comeback were cancelled out by a Shanahan try. Final score 25-12 and the Bombettes were worthy winners.

Team: O'Neill, Bannister, Perry, K Jones (c), Day-Smith, Fox-Mabe, Shanahan, Yapp, Young, Davies, Coleman, Helmore, Cahill, Phillips and Richards. Substitutes: Kath Jones, Belliso, Rees, Britton, Amy Williams.

Barry woman of the match was Young and Croesyceiliog chose Perry.

This win sets up a semi-final match against Maesteg on May 11. Supporters are welcome; contact Rachel or the club and, if there are sufficient numbers, we may arrange transport.

AM

The Quarks' dogged relegation fight over

THE season is winding down but after the Quarks lost 3.5 - 1.5 against the Cardiff AJs, the inevitable happened as we confirmed our relegation from division two.

Being the lowest rated team in the division by a country mile we did well to remain in contention to avoid the drop for so long.

The Quarks' points came from a win by Ken Hannah and a draw from Sam White.

On the weekend, the Welsh Championships took place. A total of 90 players from all parts of Wales met in Llanedeyrn to take part. The Barry Chess Club had players taking part in all three sections.

In the championship we were represented by Lee Davis and Nigel Ralphs. Lee was ranked 23rd and Nigel 30th out of the 40 competitors.

Lee took four points from three wins, two draws and two defeats from his seven games to finish equal eighth. He only earned four ratings points for his efforts but now has a current rating of 2,104 which I believe is his highest ever. Nigel finished on 3.5

NEWS FROM BARRY CHESS CLUB

competitors. Barry were represented by John Stephenson, ranked seventh and Windsor Lewis, ranked 18th.

For John this was his first tournament. John eventually finished with three wins and a draw from his seven matches. Windsor only had six games winning, drawing and losing two but was granted a bye as well.

Both John and Windsor finished on 3.5 points in equal 11th place. Windsor as the lower ranked player earned 38 rating points but John lost 26 points. However a good weekend was had by all.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30 pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards. For more details visit <http://barrychessclub.yol.asite.com>.

Phil Jones

Five-a-side teams wanted

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